

Hafa Adai!

Wiseman stands by ruling that signature was forged. PAGE 5
Falling fuel prices results in a decrease in FAC. PAGE 9

75¢

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\$7M tax checks out today

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATED EDITOR

The Department of Finance's announcement that it would release the first batch of over 3,600 tax checks worth over \$7 million beginning today, July 2, couldn't come any sooner for many island residents.

See TAX on Page 4

» Taxpayers say release couldn't have come sooner

Some EAD holders in limbo

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATED EDITOR

Humanitarian parolees who adjusted their status in advance of the July 29, 2019, deadline are now in a quandary on whether they qualify for residency status under Public Law 116-24 or

the Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act.

Chris Bernardo, a waitstaff at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, said he has no idea whether he can still apply for CNMI-only permanent residency under the new law that was signed into

See EAD on Page 4

Casino TRO quashed but not dissolved

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court quashed yesterday the temporary restraining order Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC took against the Commonwealth Casino Commission early last week, but not entirely dis-

solving it as there are still factors that are subject to further discussion by both parties.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo verbally ordered the quashing of the TRO that prohibited CCC from releasing the tax information it has collected from IPI in

See CASINO on Page 4

Liu nominated to MVA board

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thomas T. H. Liu, the former general manager of the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, has been nominated to serve as board director

of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

In his nomination letter yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he and Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios are confident in Liu's leadership to carry out the mandates of the board of directors

See LIU on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Murphy's Law reared its head at the announcement of the Miss 2019 Liberation Day Queen winners.

PAGE 7



NATION

It was called the "The Sewing Circle," an unlikely name for a secret subset of Navy SEALs.

PAGE 17



ASIA

President Donald Trump became the first sitting American leader to step into North Korea.

PAGE 18



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Rota 'Pistang Pinoy'

PHOTOS By PHILHONCON



The Rota community celebrated its first-ever Pistang Pinoy (Filipino fiesta) last Saturday. This was held at the sprawling field next to Rota roundhouse in Songsong village.



Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Eli Arago administers the oath of office for the Filipino Community of Rota, led by its president, Jesus Calvo, right front row.



A Philippine flag-raising ceremony was held by FILCOR led by its president, Jesusa Calvo.



Annamae G. Adaza, a core volunteer of the Philippine Honorary Consulate in the CNMI and community relations coordinator of the Office of the Governor, reads the message of Philippine President Rodrigo R. Duterte.



Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig expresses his appreciation to the Filipino community for their continued love and support for the growth of Rota.



One of the performers at Rota's Pistang Pinoy.



FILCOR's executive board, board of directors and advisers take their oath of office. They will serve for the year 2019-2020.



One of the highlights of Pistang Pinoy was a folk dance presentation by Filipino community members of Rota.

Tourism Topics

A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

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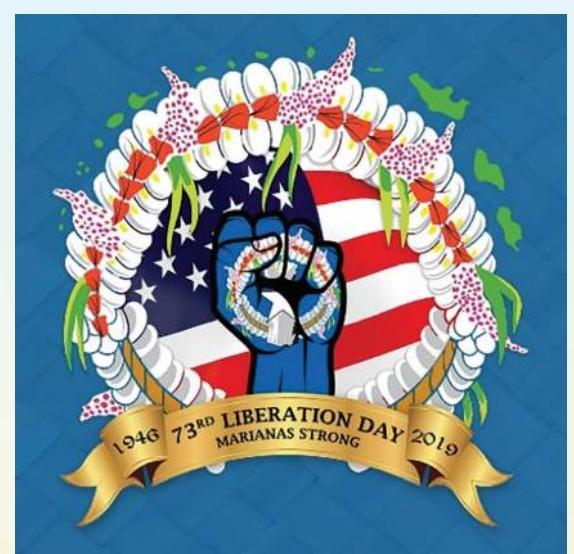
HAFADAI & TIROW

2019 Liberation Day

The Marianas Visitors Authority is pleased to be a sponsor of the 2019 Liberation Day festivities providing visitors and residents with the opportunity to enjoy an island-style celebration while commemorating an important part of Marianas' history.

Liberation Day is celebrated annually to mark the release in 1946 of Saipan and Tinian residents from World War II civilian camps. Following the invasion of the islands by U.S. forces on June 15, 1944, the large civilian population was held by the U.S. military in three camps: Camp Susupe and Camp Chalan Kanoa in Saipan and Camp Chulu in Tinian. Upon the end of the war, island residents were granted increasing allowance under guard to leave the camps during the day for subsistence farming and other activities, receiving full liberty to return to their homes permanently with the closure of the camps on July 4, 1946.

The 2019 Liberation Day is being celebrated at Garapan Fishing Base through July 6, 2019, from 6-10 p.m. with live entertainment, games, raffles, food, arts and crafts, and other activities. The Liberation Day parade will be held on July 4, coinciding with America's Independence Day, and will begin at 2 p.m. The parade route will be from National Office Supply north on Beach Rd. to Garapan Fishing Base.



On The Marianas Calendar

- Rota Coconut Festival Sept. 13-14, 2019

Reckless driver engages police in car chase

On Saturday, June 29, 2019 at about 6:2pm, a police officer was heading west along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road while doing routine patrol when he noticed a vehicle traveling down As Terlaje Hill that was passing other vehicles at a high rate of speed.

As the vehicle (ACS 399) got closer to the police vehicle, the police officer noticed that vehicle was being driven by a man who was not wearing his seatbelt.

The officer immediately activated his emergency lights

and pursued the vehicle. Upon reaching the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Waterloo area, the officer was directly behind the vehicle when he noticed that the vehicle began to gain speed. The officer then called Department of Public Safety central by radio and relayed that he was pursuing a red sedan by Chalan Kiya and was heading west.

As the sedan approached the Chalan Kiya traffic signal lights, it swerved to the "must turn right" lane to pass and proceeded to run the red light as it continued west. The vehi-

cle continued to overtake and gain speed as it approached the traffic light in front of Atkins Kroll Toyota. Nearly colliding with vehicles as the light was red, the vehicle maneuvered through the intersection as it made its way onto Beach Road and headed north. As the vehicle continued to gain speed, the officer noted his speedometer to be at 90 mph while the subject vehicle continued to gain speed.

Upon reaching the intersection, the subject vehicle then made a right turn into

Quartermaster Road, before it skidded and nearly collided with another vehicle before proceeding south. While on Chalan Pale Arnold, the vehicle continued to gain speed until it reached the Chalan Kiya traffic light where it displayed red. The vehicle then switched over to the oncoming lane to pass the vehicles in the intersection and continued to occupy the oncoming lane until it passed the Chalan Kiya Mobil gas station.

The subject vehicle continued to travel east and up As

Terlaje hill at a speed of 80 mph. At the traffic light in front of the Northern Marianas College, the vehicle then ran the red light and continued traveling east as it overtook several vehicles on Isa Drive before making a U-turn at the Kagman traffic light. Other units joined the pursuit as they made their way through Papago toward San Vicente. The vehicle continued to travel along Isa Drive before making a left turn onto Tun Herman Pan Road and headed south. While units continued to pursue the ve-

hicle, road conditions were wet and bumpy. The vehicle continued before making a right turn along Airport Road and headed south at an excessive speed. At about 6:40pm, officers lost sight of the vehicle and radioed all units to be on the lookout for a red sedan bearing the license plate ACS 399.

At approximately 6:56pm, DPS central received a call from an unidentified caller reporting a suspicious vehicle parked at a residence in lower Dandan. At about 6:58pm, officers arrived at the reported location and confirmed with central that the vehicle was the red sedan and was parked at the residence. At about 7:2pm, officers arrested the driver of the red sedan and transported the individual to the Department of Corrections for booking and processing. At about 7:33pm, the red vehicle was impounded. (PR)

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The Pistang Pinoy celebration, which was also part of the island's commemoration of the Philippine Independence Day (usually celebrated on June 12), saw the largest ever gathering of Filipinos and their families on Rota since FILCOR's creation more than 20 years ago.

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advisers revived the organization's role in the community.

FILCOR went into temporary hiatus in 2007; it was established in 1997.

This year, FILCOR is led by an executive board and they are composed of Jesusa B. Calvo, president; Geraldine G. Matondo, vice president (internal); Berlin S. Barcenas, vice president (external); Nelia C. Llana, secretary; Angelita P. Reyel, assistant secretary; Lea D. Maratita, treasurer; Rosemarie B. Dela Cruz, assistant treasurer; Evelyn G. Ababa, auditor; Rodel L. Cayetano, public relations officer; Jhaeron A. Montenegro, assistant PRO, and Dawn T.

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*2019 HONDA HRV LX 2WD. Based on 20% down. 3.25% APR, 26 pay periods per year on approved credit. Total deferred \$21,154.32.

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Church's altar is set on fire

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The alter of the St. Jude Parish Church in Koblerville was set on fire midday last Sunday but only a portion of the altar was charred as the fire was put out as soon as neighbors noticed the church's broken door and the smoke.

The St. Jude Parish Church was broken into last Sunday, believed to be between 1pm and 2:30pm, by an unknown suspect who put a portion of the altar on fire. Nothing was

reported stolen.

The suspect also left what seemed to be a goat or dog skull below the 10 commandments monument just outside the church, by the social hall.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to release an official statement about the incident.

According to church pastor Rev. James Balajadia, there are no surveillance cameras around the area so there is no visual footage.

Balajadia said the incident happened on Sunday between

1pm to 2:30pm following Mass and parish fellowship. Balajadia was informed of the incident by a neighbor and Parish deacon Sam Benavente.

Blajadia said he observed at the scene that the alter cloth cover was set on fire but, because a wax candle was used, it died out on its own. The doors were also left broken and the entire parish was smoky while the alter was charred.

"I don't think they were trying to burn down the church but, I don't know. He could have come with kerosene or gasoline. They could have done much worse than just trying to light something,"

said Balajadia.

He said that, as upsetting as the scene was, he only hopes that the person behind it gets help.

"It's upsetting but it shows that this person really needs help and, whatever they're going through, we're here, we know there are other agencies on Saipan that want to help him and this just shows that there are people who are really struggling right now," he said.

Balajadia has mixed emotions about the incident—saddened by the break-in but also grateful that no one was hurt.

"it could be worse and I still walk away with gratitude.

it's just sad and it's upsetting to see but, at the same time, I'm grateful that it didn't happen during one of our youth events, which we have here every week...or even during Mass when there are a lot of

children and elderly who are really vulnerable," he said.

Balajadia is urging anyone who may have any leads to come forward for justice's sake and for the suspect to get help.

LIU

From Page 1

in the governance of the MVA.

Senate President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) referred Liu's nomination to Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), who chairs the Senate Standing Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, for review and recommendation.

An MVA board director has a four-year term.

When asked for comments about Liu's nomination, Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" T. Guerrero

(R-Saipan) said Liu is knowledgeable about the tourism industry and is going to be an asset to MVA.

"I hope that the current board members...[will] work together as a team so we can continue to promote the CNMI as a destination [and] improve our tourist arrivals," Guerrero said.

Liu is the contact person for Globe International Group, which is building a nine-story hotel and two-story villas near a fire station in San Roque.

Liu used to serve as general manager of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

CASINO

From Page 1

the past three years.

However, the TRO is not completely dissolved because CCC is still prohibited from releasing IPI's financial statements.

IPI still insists that some, if not all, of the information in the IPI financial statements are confidential.

CCC has already made accessible to the public the monthly reports that IPI has submits to the commission from 2015 through 2018, while certain information on IPI financial statements are still to be litigated.

IPI will be submitting redacted financial statements that will also be accessible to the community.

Govendo ordered both IPI and CCC to return to court on July 9 to argue their position on the issue to allow both parties time to submit their arguments in writing and to reply, if needed.

In a short interview, CCC lawyer Michael Ernest said that, although the court has agreed with the commission's position in large part, the TRO is not completely quashed.

"The TRO is being amended greatly to allow the release of information. At this time, we're still actively litigating, so nothing is final for the time being," he said.

IPI lawyer Viola Alepuyo said that IPI ultimately just wants to keep confidential the information that is protected by the Constitution.

"This is not only an issue for IPI; it's an issue for every company in the CNMI. Could you imagine what a company would go through if their taxes were just out there or if somebody's medical records were just out there? That's a serious issue. Our Constitution

protects this for a reason and that's what we've been saying from the very beginning. If its required by law, then its required by law, but if it's not required by law, we have no choice but to uphold our privacy rights because that privacy right is not only protected by law but it is actually protected by the Constitution, both the U.S. and the CNMI," she said.

Alepuyo said that IPI and CCC met on Saturday and were able to find common ground after the government presented the New Jersey law, which was used to draft CNMI Public Law 19-24.

"We looked at it and we looked at the online filing in New Jersey and we saw that there was monthly information that was provided, so we were willing. When they showed us that information, we backed out from the monthly statements but the financial statements, we think, is still confidential," she said.

Alepuyo said although she agrees that monthly reports by a CCC license holder are open to public inspection, she believes financial statements are a different story because there's a lot of information in there that the public does

not need to have access to. Alepuyo used, as an example, information of companies IPI are stakeholders of and the information on their employees.

"Public law 19-24 only says the licensee is subject to these disclosures. What that means is, if you have another company, regardless of whether its owned 100 percent by the licensee, it's still not the licensee. We provide a lot of information to the CCC but that's confidential. We provide information about all our staff because they're licensed, but those are not public information because they're confidential," she said.

TAX

From Page 1

I Love Saipan's Prinze Salvosa is expecting one less zero in his rebate and tax return check this year compared to previous years.

With his eldest now 18 years old and ineligible to get child tax, he expects to get only around \$300 this year. Worse, he only started working again last October after being capped out from the foreign worker program, or CW, in January 2018.

"I used to get \$2,500 but, because only two of them are eligible now, so I'm only expecting to get \$300 or so," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

When asked what he usually does with the money he gets from the rebate and tax return, Salvosa said he usually gives a portion of the child tax to his children and what's left he saves.

Mango Resort staff Lherie Galvan said she will use the \$4,600 she expects to receive for her children's education. Like Salvosa, Galvan said her rebate and tax return are lower this year because of shorter hours at work.

A 35-year-old accountant

who didn't want to be named said she would also use the money for education, specifically to buy books and school materials. With her four children, she expects to get the full amount in child tax worth \$5,600.

Todd, who is from Illinois and also wants to remain anonymous, said he's been waiting since June for the CNMI government to release the tax checks. Todd has two kids and usually gets \$1,400 in rebate and child tax.

"This year it will be for plane tickets. My girls will be going to the [United] States with their mom. ...And they want to see how things are stateside and visit family there," he said when asked what he would do with the money.

In a statement yesterday, the Department of Finance said the first batch will be composed of over 3,600 of tax checks.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres also reiterated his administration's commitment to releasing tax refunds, rebates, and child tax as soon as they become available.

"I want our hardworking taxpayers to know that this administration is taking every

measure possible to get these funds in your hands, starting with \$7.1 million in child tax rebates. Protecting our families is a top priority, and these funds will help families with children increase their ability to meet their most immediate needs," he said in the statement.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios also expressed his appreciation to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig and his team at Revenue and Taxation, Treasury, and Electronic Data Processing "for working tirelessly these last few weeks for our taxpayers."

"These checks will go a long way for our families. We look forward to the release of additional checks for our community," Palacios added.

New tax requirements

According to Atalig, the first batch is composed of filers who have dependent(s), who filed on time, and are clear of any errors and fees.

With the implementation of the 2017 Tax Cuts & Jobs Act under the Trump administration, the Division of Revenue & Taxation had to make changes to the current tax information system in order to comply with the new tax law

requirements.

Additionally, Finance de-

cided to delay the implementation of ACH deposits in order to expedite the processing of tax returns. All taxpayers who opted for the ACH deposit will receive their checks in the mail.

"I thank our Finance personnel under the Division of Revenue and Taxation, CNMI Treasury, and Division of Electronic Data Processing for their hard work ensuring that funds are processed accurately and as quickly as possible. We are excited for the release of these funds so that families can improve their current financial situation and increase spending in our economy," Atalig said.

He added that all refunds,

including for Tinian and Rota,

will be released in the mail.

All taxpayers are asked to allow two weeks' time for the U.S. Postal Service to sort and distribute mail.

Any issues from prior year tax filings may delay the release of the tax checks. Atalig reminds filers to clear those prior year items at their earliest convenience.

Finance will notify the public of the next release dates when available.

blan (Ind-MP), said even he couldn't give Bernardo and humanitarian parolees like him a clear and definitive answer.

"[U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services] will determine each petition on a case-by-case basis. To read into the law and provide personal views on who qualifies, or who doesn't, at this time, is speculative at best," he said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said USCIS will first issue the rules for the review and determination of eligibility. After doing so, the agency then will still review eligibility on a case-by-case basis, to reach the decision or decisions it needs to make.

Foreign worker advocate Itos Feliciano seconded Sablan's call for patience and

wait for USCIS to issue the regulations for P.L. 116-24.

"I really can't say as of now because we are still waiting for the final regulations. I would suggest following USCIS' advice on their website and apply for re-parole and wait for their reply," he said in response to *Saipan Tribune* via a social media message.

However, Feliciano is optimistic that USCIS would ultimately deem humanitarian parolees who adjusted their status eligible for P.L. 116-24.

"I'm sure if they are eligible, their request for a re-parole will be granted and, if not, they'll just have to wait for H.R. 560 to be [become] law," he added.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

IN SEN. MANGLONA'S DEED OF GIFT CASE

Wiseman stands by ruling that signature was forged

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Pro Tempore Judge David A. Wiseman is standing by his previous ruling that a deed of gift that Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) has been showing as proof that his mother gave him a piece of land on Upper Capitol Hill in 1985 is a forgery.

In rejecting Manglona's arguments in his motion for reconsideration, Wiseman ruled that there is no manifest injustice or clear error in his decision.

In opposing Manglona's assertions, Wiseman said he exercised his own independent analysis and examination of the record in reaching his decision.

The judge said that, after reviewing the remainder of Manglona's arguments, those arguments are mere repetitions of arguments already made at the trial or they should have been made during the trial.

"The court will not hear new arguments on already decided issues and will not rehear previously made arguments," said Wiseman, citing a Superior Court precedent.

If Manglona wishes to have those issues reconsidered, he will have to appeal, Wiseman said.

Manglona sued his siblings over the disputed 4,181-square meter property on Upper Capitol Hill. The senator asked the court to declare him the owner of the property by virtue of the 1985 deed of gift.

The defendants in this case are siblings Priscilla M. Torres, Thomas A. Manglona, Vincent A. Manglona, and Associate Justice John A. Manglona.

Charles A. Manglona and Prudencio A. Manglona Jr. are not referred to as defendants in this matter as they are not claiming that the deed of gift is a forgery.

Priscilla Manglona Torres and Thomas A. Manglona, co-administrators of the estate of their late mother, asserted that their brother, Paul

Manglona, does not inherit the disputed land in its entirety as their mother's signature had been forged.

Defendants asserted that at least 50 percent of the disputed property had already been conveyed to them in equal shares through a July 26, 2013, deed of gift signed by their father, Prudencio Manglona.

In his decision last May, Wiseman ruled in favor of Sen. Manglona's siblings.

Wiseman ruled that that, since the signature of Paul Manglona's mother, Bernadita Manglona, in the deed of gift dated July 1, 1985, is a forgery, the transaction (deed) is null and void.

Wiseman said that, after listening to the testimony and reviewing the transcript multiple times, he finds handwriting expert Reed Hayes' testimony credible.

Hayes, who is the defendants' handwriting expert, testified that after analyzing the 18 known signature exemplars of Bernadita Manglona and the 1985 deed, he concluded that she did not sign the deed.

Bernadita Manglona passed away on May 30, 2009. Bernadita Manglona's husband, Prudencio T. Manglona, passed away on June 3, 2014.

Wiseman determined that Paul Manglona's testimony lacked credibility.

Paul Manglona, through counsel Mark Scoggins, then filed a motion asking Wiseman to reconsider.

In Paul Manglona's motion for reconsideration, Scoggins argued that Wiseman essentially took the defendants' arguments "verbatim" and did not exercise his own independent analysis and examination of the record in reaching his decision.

In his order last week that granted and denied in part Paul Manglona's motion for reconsideration, Wiseman said just because a party is asked to submit proposed findings, that party is not entitled to have any of their proposed findings accepted.

In fact, Wiseman said, even the winning party is not entitled to have their propositions accepted without the court's scrutiny.

Wiseman said it just so happens that he felt the defendants' propositions in this matter were correct and true.

Thus, the judge said, it should not be surprising that the language from the defendants' proposed findings is similar to his findings.

Wiseman pointed out that he can only say that the defendants prevailed in so many ways.

Wiseman said with regards to Paul Manglona's argument that the court's findings are owed less deference because of the similarity, he disagrees.

The judge pointed out that there is nothing in the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure and nothing in CNMI jurisprudence that accords his findings of facts and conclusions of lawless deference because of the similarities.

Wiseman also noted that the trial ended on Nov. 13, 2018, and the parties' proposed findings of fact of conclusions of law were filed on Jan. 15, 2019.

Wiseman said he issued the decision on May 13, 2019.

During that lengthy period, the judge said, he examined

the record, transcripts, and the parties' arguments extensively.

Wiseman said Paul Manglona's claims that the court took defendants' proposed findings "verbatim" is simply not true.

During that extended period, Wiseman said, he made numerous adjustments, changes, and rewrites of his findings.

He also stated that he thoroughly reviewed every assertion and statement of law and fact made in his findings.

On the issue of judicial notice, Wiseman conceded that he should not have referenced Prudencio Manglona Jr.'s testimony in a separate civil case.

Further, he said, Paul Manglona is correct that judicial notice is not appropriate in this

circumstance.

Wiseman said he will strike that particular section referencing Prudencio Manglona Jr.'s testimony and will issue an amended findings of fact and conclusion of law.

However, Wiseman said, the removal of that section and his analysis from his findings does not change his decision in this matter.

Clearly, Wiseman said, he did not solely or substantially rely on Prudencio Manglona Jr.'s credibility or testimony from the separate civil case as evidenced by the court's other findings, which more importantly included Paul Manglona's credibility and that of the other several witnesses.

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Burglary at a Phoenix Garden Duplex guest house

On Thursday, June 23, 2019, at about 2:53pm, a CNMI Department of Public Safety officer conducted a routine patrol around the upper Mihaville housing area in Garapan, when he noticed a window of an unoccupied guest house was ajar. Since the duplex guest house looked vacant, the officer decided to take a closer look to make sure that the window had not been accidentally left open.

As the officer approached the window, he noticed a faint odor of burnt marijuana and the sound of multiple individuals talking. As the officer announced himself through the

window as a police officer, the guest house went silent. As the officer walked around the house he noticed that another window at the back of the house had a torn-up window screen. He then radioed DPS central for assistance. Another officer who was in the area immediately arrived on scene to assist.

Officers cleared the first guest house and proceeded to the second part of the duplex, where they noticed multiple slippers and footwear scattered within the rooms. As they made their way through the second house, a container with a green leafy substance was

also found on one of the tables. As officers proceeded to clear the house, five juveniles were found hiding in one of the restrooms. Officers then instructed the individuals to step out.

Officers then called one of the parents of the five juveniles, who stated that he and the other parents have been looking for them for the past two days. The officer then told the parent that they have found all five juveniles in one of the guest houses. After a short interview, the five juveniles were brought to Commonwealth Health Center for medical clearance before they were brought to the De-

partment of Corrections for booking and detention.

On June 24, 2019, detectives interviewed the five juveniles, with one confessing

Power generator already installed on Rota, but it tripped after a day

to burglarizing the Phoenix Garden Guest House with the other four juveniles.

On June 27, 2019, at about 12:53pm, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued an arrest warrant for the charges of burglary

and theft of service for the five juveniles. All five juveniles were apprehended later the same day.

The CNMI Department of Public Safety encourages the public to call 911 anytime to report a crime or an emergency. (PR)

for several hours. Then there was an incident or some issues that happened that they had to call back the contractor," he said.

He said the other Cummins power generator is providing the island with power right now because the contractor and CUC are checking the CAT generator.

Deleon Guerrero said CUC is trying to find out whether the "grounding" issue is CUC's or the generator's fault.

In a separate interview, CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho said they are testing the CAT engine unit. "They are still testing the unit and...there is another engine that they have been testing also," Camacho said.

He said the other power engines, Mitsui and Cummins, are operational so Rota currently has substantial reserved power.

Camacho said CUC Rota produces 985,644 kilowatt and the island's peak load is 1,700 kilowatts, with an available 3.6 megawatt in reserve power.

The entire project to purchase the generator for emergency is \$690,000.

The CUC board of directors approved the selection of the International Bridge and Construction Marianas Inc. to procure, deliver, and install the generator.

IBCMI failed to meet the May 19, 2019, deadline to install the generator after it allegedly encountered some issues in delivering the unit from the U.S. mainland to Rota. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Hofsneider: Senate intends to finish budget measure on time

Although the Senate Fiscal Affairs is still in the early stage of the budget process for fiscal year 2020, they will try to focus on finishing it on time, said committee chair Sen. Jude U. Hofsneider (R-Tinian) yesterday.

He hinted, however, that it is very rare for the Senate not to make changes to a budget bill that has already passed the House of Representatives.

Hofsneider said his committee is going to review the spending measure and meet on it.

The idea of calling in some agencies to the meetings is something that Hofsneider said he needs to discuss with the committee members.

He said he just want to make sure that they get the answers from the questions that they will ask.

The House passed last Thursday the \$233.2-million spending measure for fiscal

year 2020. The House thumbed down two amendments that could have given CNMI education additional funding.

Hofsneider said his committee will review what the House did, based on the figures for appropriation and what the recommendation that was transmitted over from the administration as to what they wish the budget 2020 would look like.

He said they have a month to conduct the budget process, but he is hoping to finish it as soon as they can.

The senator said they need to have a budget signed into law before Oct. 1 to avert a partial government shutdown. He said the Legislature doesn't expect that to happen.

"We hope to finish it soon and have a balanced budget and agreed product to be sent over to the [Torres] administration for review," he said. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Torres Refrigeration, Inc
P.O. Box 500714 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone No: 235-1662/234-6098 • Mobile No. 287-1662
Fax No: 235-1662

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Refrigeration and Air-Con Technician
Opening Date: 6/27/2019 Closing Date: 7/11/2019

Job Duties: Repair or replace parts for residential and commercial air conditioning and refrigeration units and other appliances such as wiring, motors, pumps, switches, lights, fans and thermostats. Inspection and testing of the air conditioning systems to ensure they are working properly. Check the contractor, start/run capacitor(s) and the condenser fan motor. Insure that standard are being complied with and procedures and policies are being followed. This will include maintain a safe work area. Know to use of electrical equipment to test for continuity of circuits and components. Responsible for arranging heating and cooling systems for newly constructed residences and businesses. Proficient in reading blueprints is required since this involves placement of the ductwork and pipes and they must be installed correctly.

Qualifications: Must be a Refrigeration and Air-con Technician, proficient in air-con service and repairs, installation and maintenance. Knowledge in System Testings for proper functioning. Inspection and testing of the air conditioning systems to ensure unit is working properly. Knowledge of use electrical equipment to test for continuity of circuits and components. Knowledge in arranging heating and cooling systems for newly constructed residences and businesses.

Full Time – 80 hours; bi-weekly
Salary Range: \$8.06 per hour Overtime Rate: 1.5

Auto Mechanic
Opening Date: 6/27/ 2019 Closing Date: 7/11/2019

Job Duties: Perform Inspection, Services, and repair of the auto air conditioning system, engines, brakes, and other parts of cars, buses and trucks by checking every component and whole range of vehicle safety systems. Perform routine maintenance to prevent future breakdowns. Change oil and oil filter, check tires, inspect fluids, and examine belts and hoses. Overhauls and repairs engines and transmissions on gas and diesel equipment. Perform tune-ups on vehicles. Overhauls, repairs and / or replaces other vehicle parts. Replace shock absorbers, checks and balances, wheels and checks for proper tires and alignment. Perform diversified electrical work on all automotive and related equipment. Use diagnostic equipment to troubleshoot and repairs or replaces digital electronic components and computers. Fabricates and or reconstructs equipment by using gas, arc, NIG or TIG welding methods. Perform emission control repair, replacement and testing on all required vehicles. Road tests vehicles to locate operational defects prior to returning to active use. Overhauls, repairs, and maintains heavy equipment which may include tractors, crawlers, and the like. Performs auto air-conditioning check and repair, replacing defective air-conditioning parts (compressor, evaporator, condenser) and checking of Freon. Operate shop machines, such as milling and metal lathes, to rebuild or fabricate machine parts.

Qualifications: Must be proficient, know to analyze automotive and auto air-con problems. Knowledge of Car's mechanical and electronic systems. Must know to operates shop tools and machines. Competence with a variety of electronic tools such as infrared engine analyzers and computers. Operates shop tools and machines Modify, design ad fabricate special purpose equipment.

Certification and Requirements:
High School Diploma. Minimum of 12 months work experience. Communicate fluently in both written and oral form.

Full Time – 80 hours; bi-weekly
Salary Range: \$8.02 per hour Overtime Rate: 1.5

Send Employment Application at Torres Refrigeration, Inc. Office, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday at Commerce PI., Airport Road, San Vicente or to mailing address at P.O. Box 500714, by Fax at (670)235-1662 or email to Joseph T. Torres at jtorres@pticom.com.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

WUSHIN CORPORATION

Has an opening for

TANKER TRUCK MECHANIC (LPG Equipment)

JOB DUTIES:

Perform routine maintenance and repair duties involving repair of LPG truck mechanical equipment including internal valves, pumps, remote shutdown, liquid metering system, hose reels, emergency relief valve, and pipings. Inspect, diagnose and locate mechanical difficulties of LPG tank truck, hose, and metering system for accuracy of LPG liquid meter and free of leaks. Maintain pneumatic actuator for emergency shutdown. Layout, repair, install and replace gauge, valves, pressure regulators and related equipment. Inspect and determine repair of tire of all LPG Tank truck. Perform safety inspections on all LPG trucks and ensure repair has been completed before the vehicle leaves the premises. Maintain inventory of equipment and LPG supplies and accessories as necessary. Regular inspections of LPG storage tanks to ensure safety and continuity of LPG supply. Perform LPG line installation at customer's location and assist customer's inquiry. Perform monthly testing of safety equipments such as fire pump, generator, and all emergency shutdown switches. Secure all valves and pump switches to make sure all are off before leaving the premises. Coordinate route and delivery schedule with tank truck drivers. Respond to field emergencies such as customers request for equipment or hose leaks. Perform inbound isolainer clearance. Perform inbound isolainer clearance. Perform Related duties as required.

REQUIREMENTS:

Prior experience as tank truck mechanic (lpg equipment) in LPG industry is preferred; has the ability to read and understand various manuals for the purchase of LPG accessories, parts, equipment needed; must have general knowledge in LPG operation and proficient with hazardous materials safety handling; must have knowledge in installation of LPGas line and must be able to do leak test. Knowledge of all applicable DOT and Motor Carrier Safety Regulations; Graduate of High School or equivalent and must possess a current and valid CNMI Driver's License.

Salary: \$8.02 - \$9.00 per hour

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

JOB DUTIES:

Repairing and maintenance of LPG tanks and cylinders; maintains, paints, and repairs company-owned equipment which includes LPG tanks, cylinders, valves, and others; Overseeing the safety and cleanliness of the facility; perform discharging of petroleum gas from isolainer tank to company storage tank with proper methods; and perform loading of LPGas from storage tank to the delivery truck or cylinders; read gauges or meters and record quantity discharged or loaded, examined returned cylinders or tanks from customer for surface defects such as dents, cracks, and burns; perform other duties as assigned.

REQUIREMENTS:

Must have knowledge in identifying gas line leakage and damage tank; must have the ability to perform LPG line installation; training certificate in hazardous materials is required; Commercial Driver health certificate is required; must possess a current and valid CNMI driver's license, and police/court clearance is required.

Salary: \$8.11 per hour

BOOKKEEPER

JOB DUTIES:

Establish chart of accounts, and assign entries to proper accounts. Check and verify source of documents such as invoices and receipts. Prepare daily sales report in excel format and enter data to the company's accounting system general ledger. Analyze account data to be posted to generate financial reports. Handle accounts receivable and accounts payable. Send statement of accounts to customer after the month end. Contact customer to notify them of delinquent accounts and accept payment made at the time of contact. Assemble and review vendor's invoices for posting using proper codes. Scheduling and preparing checks for payment to vendors and disburses petty cash by recording entry and verifying documents. Prepare and perform daily bank deposits. Prepare and perform monthly bank reconciliation. Maintain complete filing system to support financial records such as copies of vouchers, invoices or correspondence. Answer orders, inquiries, questions or request from customers in person, on the phone, or by email. Perform any other duties as assigned.

REQUIREMENTS:

An Associate's degree in Accounting or equivalent. Must have knowledge and understanding of bookkeeping practices and procedures. Must have a good communication and multitasking skills, organizational, self-motivation, responsible, and able to manage deadlines. Proficient in MS Word and Excel, and Sage 50 accounting system.

Salary: \$8.84 - \$8.85 per hour

Send your application or resume' to:
WUSHIN CORPORATION
Industrial Drive, Lower Base

PO Box 500440, Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone #s 1670-322-7415 / 8733

E-mail: wushin2@pticom.com

From Monday – Friday, 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Application deadline: July 2, 2019.

The job opportunity is a temporary, full-time position.



Members of the NMI Girl Scouts pose for a picture with USA Girl Scouts Overseas Japan Office Member development manager Victoria Adams, fourth right, during the NMI Girl Scouts' introduction of Adams yesterday at Cha Bistro.

MARC A. VENUS

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Girl Scouts welcomes the presence of Victoria Adams, the Japan Office of the USA Girl Scouts Overseas Member development manager, who is on island to help conduct trainings for the local Girl Scout group.

Adams also met with 2019 Miss Marianas Shanon Samamoto and 2018 Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera, who are both troop leaders, during a press briefing yesterday at Cha Bistro.

"I'm really looking forward to working with the NMI Girl

Scouts as a troop leader," Samamoto said.

Adams joined the USA Girl Scouts in fourth grade and she has been involved with the girl scouts for most of her life. She has been awarded the Gold Award Girl Scout, which is of the highest award in girl scouting. She became the member development manager last April 2018.

The NMI Girl Scouts, in partnership with Adams, will be conducting numerous Overseas Committee Management Team or OCMT training sessions throughout this week.

"The girls will provide the programming that they want. We're very much about

girl-led programming," Adams added.

She believes that the CNMI has great opportunities to do Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics-related programs.

According to NMI Girl Scouts vice president Celine Cabrera, Girl Scouting has really focused on STEM in the last few years. An idea that was mentioned about the possible activity STEM provides is through robotics.

The NMI Girl Scouts currently has 30 members, and are recruiting girls aged 6 to 12.

The NMI Girl Scouts will be present at the 4th of July Liberation Day Parade.

Missed call in Liberation Day Queen crowning

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Murphy's Law reared its head at the annual announcement of the winners of the Miss 2019 Liberation Day Queen last Sunday at the Liberation Day grounds at the Garapan Fishing Base, with the emcee scrambling the names of one of the royal court princesses.

The master of ceremony,



Miss 2018 Liberation Day Queen Brinae Cruz, rightmost, adjusts the crown on Miss 2019 Liberation Day Queen Pernalyn Camacho, second right, while Liberation Day Royal Court chair Bridget Maratita and 2019 Miss Earth NMI Leisha Deleon Guerrero look on.

MARC A. VENUS

Patrick Arriola, mistakenly named Lea Reiann Dela Cruz Salalila as one of the Liberation Day royal princesses. She actually placed sixth and the actual royal princess is Rhe'ann Tudela, who got second place. Angel Toya Mafogna Deleon Guerrero completed the top 3.

Thankfully, despite the minor mix-up, the rest of the evening went well, with Pernalyn

Janet Borja Camacho crowned as the Miss 2019 Liberation Day Queen.

"Despite the limited time we had as candidates, it was pretty amazing...and I don't regret anything," Camacho said.

Camacho thanked 2018 Liberation Day Queen Brinae Joseslyn Maratita Cruz, her Royal Court sisters, 2019 Liberation Day Royal Court Committee chair Bridget Maratita, and all her supporters.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang applauded the contestant's courage, hard work and efforts to make this coronation night a success. He also thanked the parents and supporters of the contestants.

Apatang also thanked Cruz for fulfilling her responsibilities as Liberation Day Queen. "You have been an inspirational and role model to young ladies," Apatang added.

To complete the Liberation Day Royal princesses from fourth to seventh were Kiara Nekaifes, Nadine Kapileo, Lea Salalila, and Regiene Babauta.

2019 Liberation Day Planning Committee vice chair Shane Villanueva announced that the candidates were able to raise \$96,000 from ticket sales for the Liberation Day raffle, which is the highest ever in Liberation Day history.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM — OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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ADDENDUM NO. 1 June 28, 2019 ITB19-GOV-090

Rota High School Renovation & Conversion to Office Spaces

1. Sealed bids must be marked ITB19-GOV-090 Rota High School Renovation & Conversion to Office Spaces. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. Chst, Saipan Local Time, July 12, 2019. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Chst, Saipan Local Time, July 12, 2019 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670)664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 12, 2019 and the bid documents must be received no later than July 23, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m., Chst, July 25, 2019. However, if no notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders from outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m., Chst, Saipan Local Time, on July 12, 2019.

2. Performance and Completion Time for this project is Two Hundred Forty (240) Calendar Days from Notice to Proceed Date.

3. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i)Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per day, or (ii)two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 240 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

4. Drawing sheets with revisions are attached to this Addendum No. 1.

5. The revised Bid Schedule is attached to this Addendum No. 1.

Items 4 & 5 of Addendum No. 1 may be picked up at the Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor or email Ms. Kayleena Seman at kayleena.opdcip@gmail.com or Ms Elizabeth S. Balajadia at esb.cip@gmail.com for an electronic file of the revised drawing and the bid schedule. Receipt of this addendum must be acknowledged by the contractor and shall be made a part of the bid documents.

END OF ADDENDUM NO. 1

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Rehabilitation Council



P.O. Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 322-6537 • Fax: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6549 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2019 First General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at the Aqua Resort – Taga Room from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of July 10, 2019
- IV. Review and Adoption of FY 2018 Joint SRC and SILC Fourth General Membership Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2018
- V. Reports
 - a. SRC Chairperson
 - b. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
 - c. Employment and Marketing Committee Chairperson
 - d. Transition and Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
 - e. OVR Director
- VI. New Business
 - a. SRC Orientation Training
 - b. Sub-Committee Goals
- VII. Consumer Forum
- VIII. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- IX. Next meeting:
- X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter, are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY) no later than Wednesday, July 3, 2019.

/s/ Frances Torres, Chairperson

Liberation Day Festival Kickoff

PHOTOS By MARC A. VENUS



A participant of the Bank-a-Ball carnival game prepares for a hit during the 2019 Liberation Day Opening Ceremony at the Garapan Fishing Base last Thursday.



The winners of 2019 Miss Earth Northern Mariana Islands pose for a photo during the 2019 Liberation Day Opening Ceremony at the Garapan Fishing Base last Thursday.



A participant of the Wiffle Toss carnival game prepares for her throw during the 2019 Liberation Day Opening Ceremony at the Garapan Fishing Base last Thursday.



A mother helps her child during the Bottle Up carnival game during the 2019 Liberation Day Opening Ceremony at the Garapan Fishing Base last Thursday.



Volunteers of the Balloon Bust carnival game pose for a photo during the 2019 Liberation Day Opening Ceremony at the Garapan Fishing Base last Thursday.



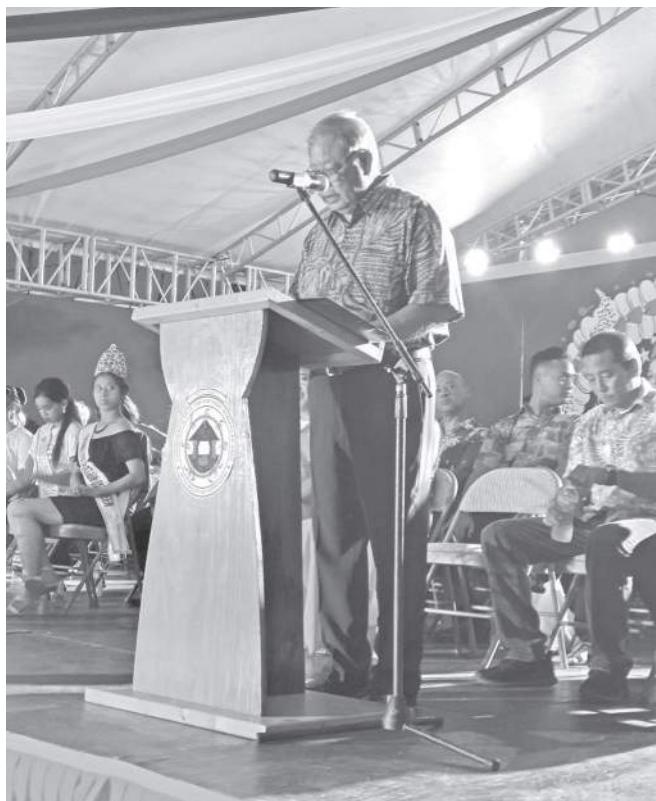
The Tudela Siblings sing the national anthem during the 2019 Liberation Day Opening Ceremony at the Garapan Fishing Base last Thursday.



The Department of Public Safety Color Guard during the 2019 Liberation Day Opening Ceremony at the Garapan Fishing Base last Thursday.



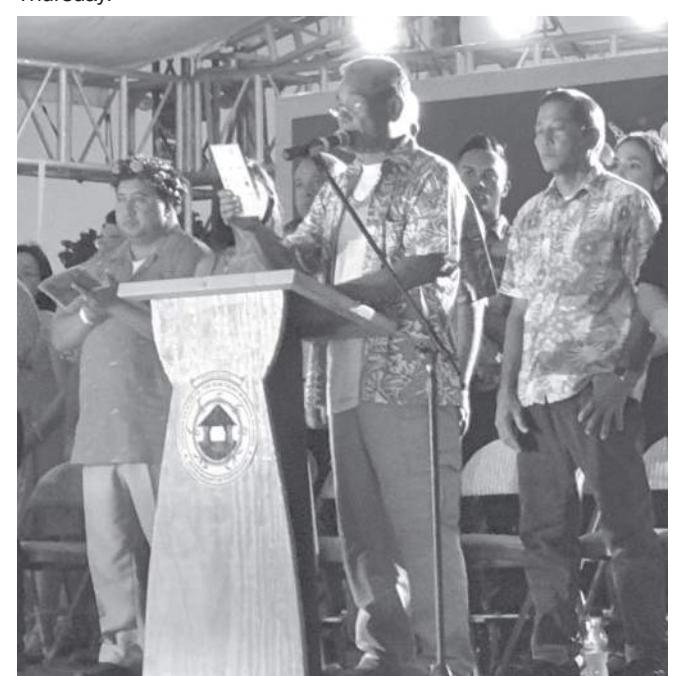
A parent directs his child at the Planko game during the 2019 Liberation Day Opening Ceremony at the Garapan Fishing Base last Thursday.



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang delivers his opening remarks during the 2019 Liberation Day Opening Ceremony at the Garapan Fishing Base last Thursday.



Acting Master of Ceremony John Hosono introduces the event schedule during the 2019 Liberation Day Opening Ceremony at the Garapan Fishing Base last Thursday.



Acting Master of Ceremony John Hosono introduces the event schedule during the 2019 Liberation Day Opening Ceremony at the Garapan Fishing Base last Thursday.

Falling fuel prices result in a decrease in FAC

There has been a decrease in the average international fuel prices. As a result, the current fuel adjustment charge rate of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has decreased. This means CUC customers will be paying less for power this month.

In a statement yesterday, CUC said it has been notified by its fuel supplier, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc., about the drop in fuel prices, resulting in CUC's FAC of \$0.20087 per kilowatt-hour going down to \$0.18803 per kWh effective July 1, 2019.

TO RESOLVE MANY DISPUTED ISSUES

CUC senior management and CPA reps finalizing agreement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The senior management of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is reviewing and working with representatives of the Commonwealth Ports Authority to finalize an omnibus settlement agreement the two agencies drafted to finally resolve the many issues that they have had for many years.

Those issues relate to utilities and water charges, as well as easement and access/right to use.

In an interview, CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho said the omnibus settlement agreement, which was among some topics being discussed during the CUC board's executive session last Friday, is something that they want to get resolved quickly.

He said there are scenarios that they need to finalize and some conditions that CPA expects from CUC.

Camacho said they are working on finishing those items very quickly and get that back on the table by the next CUC board meeting. No schedule has been set yet for the next CUC board meeting but he said CPA agrees with the conditions.

"We will finalize the documents very quickly. We like to get this [agreement] done by the next board meeting," Camacho said.

Last June 18, CPA board approved the draft CUC-CPA omnibus agreement with some conditions.

Part of the agreement would give CUC permanent easement for usage and access to: 67 water wells on CPA premises; the existing CUC water line transporting the water from the well to the CUC island system; CPA's 20-million-gallon water tank; and the CUC sand filtration system on CPA premises.

Under the terms of the agreement, CUC has the responsibility to maintain the water wells easement.

This will provide CPA with continuous water supply from the water resources on its (CPA) premises free of charge.

CPA, however, upon execution of this agreement, will pay for sewer line charges at an established flat rate.

CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds earlier stated that this omnibus settlement

deal will resolve the specific charges that have been an ongoing dispute between CUC and CPA.

This agreement would basically provide an offset of charges, said King-Hinds, noting that CPA will pay CUC the sum of \$7.2 million as a settlement amount for the disputed water charges and penalty.

"This same amount shall be the amount of consideration for the easement agreement that we will be executing with CUC," she said.

King-Hinds said the issue with the Saipan seaport wharfage fee is fully resolved by executing this agreement.

She said they, however, have accounting issues that they need to address so that they can allocate this back billing at the correct fiscal years so that it doesn't impact their bond and insurance agreement.

King-Hinds said that, with the CPA board's approval, the agreement will then go to the CUC board for final approval.

She said the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission is also required to approve it.

CUC last reported that CPA's debt to CUC now stands at \$17.7 million.

**COMMONWEALTH LAW REVISION COMMISSION
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY**
House of Justice • Guma Hustisia • Iimwal Aweevee
P.O. Box 502179, Saipan, MP 96950-2179
Tel: (670) 236-9820 • Fax: (670) 236-9897
<https://www.cmlaw.org> • cmlaw@justice.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, July 08, 2019, 11:30 a.m.

Commonwealth Law Revision Commission Office

JCT Building II, Unit 6

Susupe, Saipan

Agenda

1. Preliminary Matters
 - a. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - b. Meeting Notice (Compliance with Open Government Act, I CMC § 9901 et seq.)
 - c. Final Approval of January 30, 2019 Meeting Minutes
2. Executive Director's Report
 - a. Office & Staff Update
 - b. Publications – Print & Website: Status, Issues, & Plans
 - i. NMI Reporter
 - ii. CMC
 - iii. NMIC
 - iv. Driver's Handbook
 - v. Miscellaneous Projects
 - c. FY 2019 and FY 2020 Budget & Expenditures
 - d. Sales and Other Reports
3. Old Business
4. New Business
 - a. Amendment of LRC Bylaws
 - b. Amendment of I CMC § 3809
 - c. Capitol Hill Government Housing
 - d. LRC Seal
5. Tentative Date for Next Meeting and Adjournment
6. Other Matters

The regular meeting of the Commission will be held at an alternate location due to the closure of Guma Hustisia.

Residential customers who use 500 kWh of power per month will pay approximately \$6.42 less in their monthly billing.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014. (PR)

Dandan village. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Scheduled power outage tomorrow

There will be scheduled power interruption tomorrow, July 3, 2019, from 8:30am to 11:30am

- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: Dandan
- Area(s) affected: Dandan and Obyan
- Water well(s) affected: Obyan Wells, OB: 1-24
- Water service maybe af-

fected based on tank level for the following areas: Koblerville, San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, San Jose, Susupe and Chalan Laulau (Beach Road)

- Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None
- Omni-Rupter Switch (ABS) Installation

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-CIP-099**
SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 09, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.
**"LEASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" VEHICLE
FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM"**
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CMi GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELIZABETH S. BALAJADIA, P.E.
CIP ADMINISTRATOR

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-BECQ-107**
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 05, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.
"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY – ROTA BRANCH"
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A-D)
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP19-BECQ-106**
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 05, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.
"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY – SAIPAN"
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A-D)
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/CGC-016**
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 29, 2019 TIME: 2:00 PM
"DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM"
COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC, ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.
*Mandatory bidders meeting on July 03, 2019 @ 11:00 am, Saipan time @ CHCC Conference Room #3.
*Off-island vendors, please email Subroto Banerji @ Subroto.banerji@dph.gov.mp for a Zoom link.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ SUBROTO BANERJI
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

**Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office**
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6804
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
NMC RFP 19-002**
NMC CREES AQUACULTURE FACILITY PROJECT
Northern Marianas College is soliciting sealed proposal for the renovation, repair and Design and Build of CREES Aquaculture Facility, As Terlaje Campus.
Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O-1 commencing Wednesday, June 19, 2019, between the hours of 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Proposal Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., July 19, 2019, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. O-1, Administrative Services Office, Saipan, MP 96950.
For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the RFP via email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).
Mandatory pre-proposal meeting and Site Inspection: July 03, 2019 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Building J, CREES Conference room.
Discussion may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers.
NMC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and/or to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole discretion, to do so will be in the best interest of the College. All proposals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by the Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-19-2015**
**Representation, Promotion
and Public Relations Services
for the Korea Market**

**Submission/Closing Date:
Time:** August 22, 2019
3:00 p.m. (ChST)

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn. Priscilla M. Iakopo
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose Village
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.my-marianas.com.

/s/ MARIAN ALDAN-PIERCE
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
Managing Director

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Don't make 9/11 victims beg for more help with health problems

This isn't "a very complicated subject," as President Donald Trump called it. And yes, there is reason to get "all bent out of shape" about this, though Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said there is not.

The future of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund for first responders and other survivors of the 9/11 terrorist attacks lies in the hands of Trump and McConnell. So, let's set the record straight.

The fund is running out of money. Very soon, those who've gotten sick because they ran into the horror, worked on the pile or lived in the area won't be able to pay their medical bills. Others who become sick won't be able to file claims as of December 2020. So, once again, police officers, firefighters and others are begging Congress for help.

That included retired NYPD Det. Luis Alvarez, who, just after dragging his gaunt, weary body to Washington to testify, entered hospice care and stopped treatment for his advanced cancer. His cancer is diagnosed as likely to be caused by the pulverized dust at Ground Zero that thousands of first responders like him breathed in after 9/11.

It's horrifying that he had to make his case.

Never forgetting shouldn't take any more meetings. And it's not complicated.

Trump and McConnell have the power to stop this ridiculous, demeaning charade. On Tuesday, McConnell met with first responders and apparently promised to call a vote by August. Now he has to deliver. Both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate should permanently authorize the compensation fund so that those who are sick and dying don't have to beg anymore. Don't wait. Don't debate. Don't tell us, "We'll see what happens," as Trump did last weekend.

Put a picture of Luis Alvarez on every Congress member's desk. Then vote.

(c)2019 Newsday



Profanity gets a stamp of approval

Profanity sells. Just ask the film industry. So when Los Angeles artist Erik Brunetti founded his clothing brand in 1990, he called it "FUCT." According to the company, the name is an acronym for "Friends U Can't Trust," and—wink, wink—is meant to be pronounced letter by letter: F-U-C-T. That's all well and good, but it doesn't take a cognitive scientist who studies profanity (like me) to see "FUCT" for what it is.

And that has caused problems for Brunetti. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office refused to issue a trademark because, it asserted, the name "FUCT" violates a statutory ban on trademarks for "immoral" or "scandalous" material.

That changed Tuesday when the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Brunetti, arguing that the "immoral" and "scandalous" criteria violated Brunetti's free speech. Free speech cases addressing obscenity are not all that common at the Supreme Court, so they're always noteworthy, but this ruling builds off another from just two years ago. In that case, the court decided the Patent and Trademark Office had to approve a trademark for the band called the Slants even though the band's name was also a derogatory term for people of Asian descent. Unless and until Congress passes a new statute, slurs and profanity will be able to be trademarked.

This has spurred substantial concern. In her dissent in the clothing case, Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote that the government will now have to register "the most vulgar, profane or obscene words and images imaginable." Justice Stephen G. Breyer cautioned: "Just think about how you might react if you saw someone wearing a T-shirt or using a product emblazoned with an odious racial epithet."

But we don't have to imagine.

Public spaces are already populated by people exercising their 1st Amendment right to wear obscene and profane clothing. Brunetti has been producing clothing imprinted with "FUCT" for almost three decades, and the Slants have been performing under that name since 2006. In an example from our own backyard, T-shirts often appear during the week of the big football game that append "F" to the names of the rival schools—"FUCLA" and "FUSC."

By almost any estimate, profanity is on the rise. Even though the Supreme Court has continued to uphold the Federal Communications Commission's right to censor broadcast television and radio, these media are shrinking as they are supplanted by online video streaming, social media, podcasts and gaming, not to mention cable television and satellite ra-

By BENJAMIN BERGEN

Los Angeles Times

Benjamin Bergen is a professor of cognitive science at UC San Diego and author of *What the F: What Swearing Reveals About Our Language, Our Brains, and Ourselves*.



dio. All of these have substantially less restrictive guidelines for profanity than the FCC does.

But this has not resulted in the dire consequences that Justices Sotomayor and Breyer warned about. Instead, it has had the opposite effect. Surveys across several generations suggest that the most frequently used profanity, like the offending four-letter word upon which FUCT is bootstrapped, have become less offensive over the last 20 years, particularly among younger Americans. For instance, last year I surveyed 100 UC San Diego students about profanity. They rated the F-word as only the 24th most offensive word in the survey, nestled in between the rather anodyne "bastard" and the somewhat outdated "hooker." This is a substantial change—consider that in 1972 George Carlin named the F-word one of his "seven dirty words."

In short, familiarity has bred not contempt but indifference. As the barriers to public displays of profanity have fallen, so has the power of the words themselves. An unenforced taboo isn't really much of a taboo at all. So, if anything, increased use of profanity on trademarked products risks devaluing those very trademarks. Increased exposure will decrease their impact.

Of course, this is all subject to change. The Supreme Court's opinion left a loophole for Congress. It stated that a more limited statute that only addressed "lewd, sexually explicit and profane" content could potentially be in line with the 1st Amendment. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. agreed. He wrote that the 1st Amendment "does not require the Government to give aid and comfort to those using obscene, vulgar, and profane modes of expression." In the future, Congress could opt to follow this path and pass a new, narrower statute banning profanity that the court would approve.

That would be a mistake. Not just because a trademark ban would have little effect on the infiltration of profanity into public view. That fight is already over. But because the best way to declaw the harshest language is to expose it to the tireless erosion of repetition.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Eight provisions you should have in your LLC operating agreement

You've decided to start a business. And you know from your research that a limited liability company is probably the right legal structure for your company. Now what?

The next step is to create an operating agreement, which is the company's manual for handling key financial and functional issues that will arise over the company's life. Do it right and you will have prevented disputes and paved a smooth runway for the company. Do it wrong and you'll have pockmarked your runway with potholes that will trip you into drama in the months and years to come.

Fortunately, thoughtful planning at the beginning can reduce nasty surprises during the middle and end. Below are eight areas in particular that you will want to take special care with when you start your company.

First, the operating agreement should spell out ownership, especially if the company has multiple owners (known as "members" in the LLC context). In some cases, this will be easy. For example, if two partners start a business, invest the same amount of money, and then work full-time for the business, the partners will normally agree to an even split. But what if a business has three owners, one who came up with the idea, another who will do most of the work, and a third that put up the money? Unsurprisingly, each of them will value their contributions differently. And that can lead to ruffled feathers. Best to hash out the value of those contributions at the start.

Second, the operating agreement needs to say how the company will be managed. Will the members do it? If so, the LLC is known as member-managed. Will the company appoint someone else to do it? If so, the LLC is known as manager-managed. And regardless of who manages the company's day-to-day affairs, the operating agreement also needs to list what subjects the owners alone may decide—topics like selling major assets, amending the operating agreement, dissolving the company, and other major events.

Third, company's operating agreement should discuss how to handle profits and losses, especially if each owner has not invested equally in the company. Without that information, you will have to hope that the default legal rules match your intentions, which is not guaranteed. For instance, in the example above where the two owners put in the same financial and sweat equity, the default rules will produce a reasonable result. But in the example where the three owners have very different roles, the default rules will yield a surprising outcome.

Fourth, many companies need an infusion of extra cash at some point. These moments are often a flashpoint. Maybe the owners disagree on whether to pump money into the company. Or maybe one of the owners doesn't have the money to do so at that moment. Or maybe one owner is willing to give the company a loan but the ownership cannot agree on the terms of that loan. Whatever the reason, raising revenue is a breeding ground for disputes, so it's best to decide how the company will get capital far in advance of when the company will actually need to do so.

Fifth, eventually one or more of the owners will want to cash out their chips and leave the business. How should that work? Perhaps the other owners will get a period of time to buy out the departing owner or a deadline to match an outside party's offer. Or perhaps something else. But whatever that exit might look like, it's generally a good idea for the operating agreement to describe the procedure for whether and how an owner can sell their stake in the business.

Sixth, no business lives forever. Some live until their owners or the government dissolve them. Others survive until their purpose ends—such as a company created to buy and later sell a piece of land. And other companies have explicit time limits such as an investment fund, which generally manages its investors' funds for a set period of time. No matter the anticipated expiration date of a company, every operating agreement should state the rules for pulling the plug and how

THE FINE PRINT

By JORDAN SUNDELL

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business and real-estate law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including Joint Marketing. His columns—focused mainly on real estate and small business—are published every other Tuesday.

to handle the aftermath such as winding down the business, selling its assets, and then distributing money to creditors and owners.

Seventh, while it would be nice to live in a world where all disagreements can be resolved amicably, we don't live in that world. And, so, the operating agreement should say how intractable disputes are handled. Often the best choice will be an arbitration clause that requires a quick and confidential answer. But if you want the default option to be a slow, messy, and public dispute in the court system, then by all means, omit how to handle disputes from your operating agreement.

Finally, one of the chief reasons for starting an LLC is for its limited liability. To maximize that protection, make sure that your operating agreement includes words to the effect that the owners' liability is limited to the money they actually invested and that creditors do not have the right to become owners, manage the company, or receive any money except pursuant to a charging order and, even then, only when the company voluntarily issues distributions.

If your operating agreement has these eight provisions, good job. You have eliminated a myriad of problems before they had a chance to take root. If your operating agreement overlooks some of these topics, it's time to update it.

I can't get my mind off the final, frantic embrace of the drowning girl and her father

The little arm gets me every time.

It's the slack right arm of Valeria, a dead, 23-month-old Salvadoran girl, draped around the neck of her dead father as they lie face down in the muddy reeds on the banks of the Rio Grande in the indelible news photographs making headlines this week.

It's the arm with which Valeria presumably clung tight to her father Sunday as the current swept them along and pulled them down during her family's tragic attempt to make an illegal border crossing from Mexico into the United States.

Many of us know or remember the fearful, trusting embrace of a child. Many of us know the protective love with which it is returned.

And all of us can imagine the anguish of the girl's father, Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez, in the final moment when he knew her innocent faith in him would not be redeemed, when he knew they would die together.

The photos, taken by La Jornada newspaper reporter Julia Le Duc in Matamoros, the Mexican city directly across the river from Brownsville, Texas, are heartbreakingly enough.

But Valeria's little arm makes the images gut-wrenching. It's a reminder of the universal bond between parent and child and a symbol of the sometimes forgotten humanity of those we often lump together as problematic immigrants.

Much of their story is familiar. According to news reports, Martinez, 25, sold his motorcycle and borrowed money so that he, Valeria and his wife, Tania Vanessa Avalos, could seek asylum in the United States from the poverty and violence in El Salvador.

But when they reached our border, they found their way

blocked by the Trump administration's policy of "metering," admitting only a small number of asylum seekers per day, leaving the rest to wait in hot, overcrowded Mexican camps for the chance to plead their case to American officials.

They decided to swim the Rio Grande instead. Martinez and Valeria made it safely across, but when Martinez headed back for his wife, little Valeria plunged into the water after him. He tucked her inside his T-shirt in the desperate, futile effort to save them both.

Their bodies were found the next day more than a quarter mile downriver amid discarded beer cans. She was still in diapers.

The photos were reminiscent of the haunting images of Alan Kurdi, the 3-year-old Syrian refugee whose drowned body washed up on a beach in Turkey in 2015, and have served as a similar reminder to those immersed in statistics and policy debates that these kids, these families, are not really so different from our own.

The images of the dead father and daughter "should piss us all off," said Democratic presidential hopeful Julian Castro in Wednesday night's debate. "If I were president I would sign an executive order that would get rid of ... the metering policy (and) ... honor asylum claims."

"We would not turn back Valeria and her father Oscar," added Beto O'Rourke, who was also on the debate stage, explaining what he'd do if elected president. "We would accept them into this country and follow our own asylum laws. We would not build walls. We would not put kids in cages."

Republican President Donald Trump blamed the Democrats for the tragedy because the party has not helped him make it so difficult to obtain asylum that most would-be refugees won't

By ERIC ZORN

Chicago Tribune



even try. Democrats "want to have open borders," Trump said. "And open borders means people drowning in the rivers."

In fact, of course, open borders—which very few Democrats actually support—would mean that families fleeing Central America could walk unimpeded across bridges spanning the Rio Grande and not risk drowning in its vicious currents.

The fly-specking of this particular story is in full swing on social media, with skeptics noting that the girl's grandmother has told reporters that Martinez and his wife simply "wanted a better future for their girl." This may be an excellent reason to want to come to America, they note, but it's not a valid basis for which to ask for asylum.

Who gets to live here, why and when? How do we manage the flow of hopefuls humanely and in accordance with the values we purport to hold?

The vivid images of the corpses of the father and his daughter in a final embrace don't make it any easier to answer these questions. But they underscore the urgency and moral imperative of addressing them.

Valeria's little arm flung helplessly around her father's neck reminds us that the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free" celebrated on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty are not a vague, faceless blob.

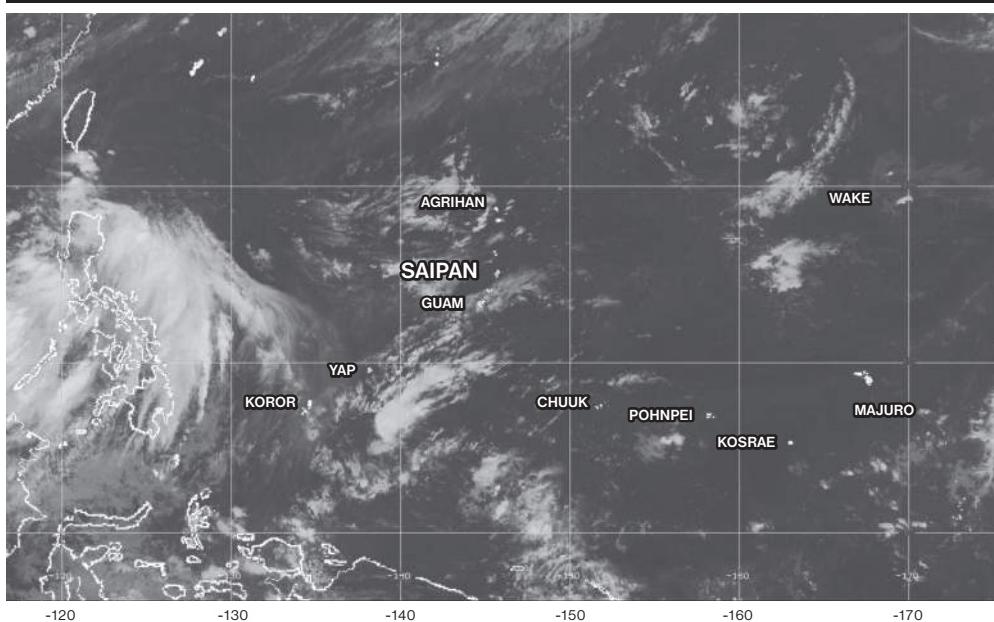
They are collection of families, like yours, like mine, bound by a fierce, desperate love that outlasts death.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
90°	79°	90°	79°	90°
79°	90°	79°	90°	79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:54 AM, MONDAY, JULY 1, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows that the upper-level low has moved west of the Marianas. This will virtually eliminate the chance of thunderstorms the next couple of days. Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows widely scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well west of the Marianas, associated with the upper-level low. The VAD wind profile indicates east-northeast winds of 12 to 16 knots through the lowest 7 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal combined seas of 2 to 4 feet, composed of a 2 foot west-southwest monsoon swell and a 2 to 3 foot east-northeast trade-wind swell, as well as 1 to 2 foot wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87°	/	80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83°	/	77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87°	/	80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86°	/	81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86°	/	78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86°	/	78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85°	/	80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Showers	63°	/	57°
Beijing	Sunny	100°	/	72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88°	/	82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87°	/	75°
London	Partly Cloudy	72°	/	54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	80°	/	64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91°	/	79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57°	/	43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	89°	/	80°
New York	Partly Cloudy	90°	/	74°
Osaka	Rain	82°	/	73°
Paris	Sunny	79°	/	55°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	79°	/	66°
Rome	Sunny	93°	/	70°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	94°	/	75°
San Francisco	Windy	66°	/	54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88°	/	64°
Tokyo	Showers	81°	/	72°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	95°	/	76°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET			
12:56 AM	LOW TIDE	1.39	
6:03 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.12	
1:26 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.23	
8:35 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.10	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:58 AM	6:19 PM	-
Wednesday	5:57 AM	7:20 PM	-
Thursday	6:59 AM	8:19 PM	-
Friday	8:03 AM	9:14 PM	-
Saturday	9:06 AM	10:06 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 2, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM</				

39th NMC Commencement Exercise



Business Management majors Franco Santos, Department of Public Safety public information officer Adrian Pangelinan, and Jaelyn Valmonte Maldangesang smile for the camera at the 39th Commencement Exercise of the Northern Marianas College at the Koblerville Gymnasium last Saturday.

NMC



NMC Education majors pose for a photo at the 39th Commencement Exercise of the Northern Marianas College at the Koblerville Gymnasium last Saturday.

NMC



From left, graduates Thia Seman and Elora Masga pose for the camera at the 39th Commencement Exercise of the Northern Marianas College at the Koblerville Gymnasium last Saturday.

NMC



Education major Romana Tefania Tudela Chong poses for the camera after receiving the Academic Excellence award at the 39th Commencement Exercise of the Northern Marianas College at the Koblerville Gymnasium last Saturday.

NMC



Criminal Justice major Cindy Florene Takasi Alo poses with the faculty after receiving her Academic Excellence award at the 39th Commencement Exercise of the Northern Marianas College at the Koblerville Gymnasium last Saturday.

NMC



Kenneth Aquino Gabrido, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management, receives the Governor's Leadership Award at the 39th Commencement Exercise of the Northern Marianas College at the Koblerville Gymnasium last Saturday.

NMC



Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, vice president for the Division of Learning and Student Success; NMC board chair Charles Cepeda; and interim Northern Marianas College president Frankie Eliptico present the Academic Excellence award to Brianna Conception Hunter at the 39th Commencement Exercise of the Northern Marianas College at the Koblerville Gymnasium last Saturday.

NMC



Northern Marianas College graduate Mele'ani Cepeda and her mother, dean of Learning and Student Success Charlotte Cepeda, pose for a photo at last Saturday's commencement ceremony.

NMC



Northern Marianas College graduates Eugenia Salas Reyes and Keven Reyes take a photo before receiving their degrees at the 39th Commencement Exercise at the Koblerville Gymnasium last Saturday.

NMC



Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, second left, Northern Marianas College board chair Charles Cepeda, second right, present Federal Emergency Management Agency officials Tracy Hanes, left, and Bill Roche, right, with a plaque of appreciation for helping NMC rebuild after Super Typhoon Yutu.

NMC



Interim Northern Marianas College president Frankie Eliptico, Accounting major Dasery Babauta, and Business Management major Francisco Babauta pose for a photo at the 39th Commencement Exercise of the Northern Marianas College at the Koblerville Gymnasium last Saturday.

NMC



CNMI LIBERATION DAY FESTIVITIES

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Beach Road from Atkins Kroll closes at 12:00 noon

Liberation Day Parade: 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Live Entertainment starts at 6:00 p.m.

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featuring





Business

United launches 2nd daily Guam-Nagoya flights

GUAM—Effective Oct. 28, 2019, United Airlines will increase its current four-times-weekly evening flight (UA171/172) between Guam and

Nagoya, Japan, which operated on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, to a daily flight aboard a Boeing 737 aircraft.

The additional capacity will provide customers with a twice-daily service between Guam and Nagoya, said United in a statement yesterday.

Cameron Nekota is new FHB Foundation president

MAITE, GUAM—After 38 years with First Hawaiian Bank, Sharon Shiroma Brown retired effective yesterday, July 1.

Brown, as First Hawaiian Bank Foundation president and senior vice president, First Hawaiian Bank Community Relations Division, will be replaced by Cameron Nekota, a senior vice president at First Hawaiian Bank, as president of the FHB Foundation and will also assume her Community Relations responsibilities.

Brown, who began her career in the bank's Marketing Division in 1981, became the bank's first female division manager for its Sales, Service and Training Division in 1990 where she was instrumental in helping to shape and drive First Hawaiian's retail sales strategy. She has served as president of the bank's foundation and senior vice president of its Community Relations Division since 2003 and has served on numerous non-profit boards.



Nekota

Brown

partnerships that will continue to have positive impacts in the years ahead. We are grateful to Sharon for her dedication and many contributions in ensuring that our legacy of giving remains focused on addressing the important needs of our community."

Nekota joined First Hawaiian Bank in 2017 as a senior vice presi-

dent, in their Bank Properties Division. He previously worked in real estate development at D.R. Horton and the James Campbell Co., and was an attorney with the law firm of Imanaka, Kudo and Fujimoto.

The FHB Foundation is the charitable arm of First Hawaiian Bank and one of Hawaii's largest corporate foundations. FHB and its foundation donate annually about \$4.25 million to over 400 non-profits in Hawaii, Guam, and Saipan with a focus on education, health and human services, and culture and the arts.

First Hawaiian Bank was founded in 1858 as Bishop & Co., and is Hawaii's largest bank providing a comprehensive suite of banking services for individuals and businesses. The bank operates 54 Hawaii branches, three on Guam and two on Saipan. First Hawaiian, Inc. is the parent company of First Hawaiian Bank. (**PR**)

Guam (GUM) – Nagoya (NGO) Schedule (Effective Oct. 28)

Airport	Flight No.	Departure & Arrival Times	Frequency	Aircraft
Guam (GUM)	UA 137	Guam (07:30)-Nagoya (10:15)	Daily	B737
	UA 171	Guam (17:05)-Nagoya (19:55)		
Nagoya (NGO)	UA 136	Nagoya (11:20)-Guam (15:50)	Daily	B737
	UA 172	Nagoya (20:50)-Guam (01:20+1)		

With this addition, United adds 500 more seats weekly each way or 26,000 seats annually on the route. Tickets are now available for purchase.

"United is committed to continuing to invest in the Japan market for Guam, and we are excited to add capacity between Guam and Nagoya to make its service twice-daily to meet its increasing demand," said Sam Shinohara, United managing director for Airport Operations for the Asia/Pacific. "United is deeply committed to the Guam market, where we have been operating for more than 50 years and we have been closely working with stakeholders to increase demand for travel between Japan and Guam. Added seat capacity in this market is a great sign that business is strengthening, which is positive news for Guam's tourism industry."

Earlier this year United announced

that it would re-introduce the Boeing 777-200 aircraft on two of three daily flights between Guam and Tokyo's Narita International Airport beginning Aug. 1, 2019, though the end of the winter season on March 30, 2020. The re-introduction of the B777s will offer customers nearly 900 daily seats each way between Tokyo and Guam.

United has also announced another flight change for Guam. Effective Oct. 27, 2019, United will discontinue its four-times-weekly Guam-Hong Kong service and will offer daily connections to Hong Kong via Tokyo/Narita, Japan. United is contacting customers booked on Guam-Hong Kong flights departing after Oct. 26 to offer alternative arrangements.

For more information, visit [united.com](#), follow @United on Twitter and Instagram or connect on Facebook. (**United**)

Japan to restrict exports to South Korea, citing less trust

By YURI KAGEYAMA and HYUNG-JIN KIM
AP BUSINESS WRITER

TOKYO (AP)—Japan is imposing restrictions on exports to South Korea, citing a decline in "relations of international trust" between the Asian neighbors.

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said a review soliciting public comments starts Monday on the move to effectively remove South Korea from a list of so-called "white nations," like the U.S. and European nations, that have minimum restrictions on trade.

Starting Thursday, Japanese manufacturers must apply for approval for each technology-related contract, such as sales of fluorinated polyimides used for displays, the ministry said.

The statement did not say what exactly was behind the decision. But relations have soured since South Korea's Supreme Court ordered the seizure of local assets of a Japanese company after it refused to compensate forced laborers during World War II.

South Korea's trade ministry said Monday it will "sternly" deal with the Japanese move, calling it an "unjust" action that violates rules of the World Trade Organization.

South Korea "thinks this Japanese measure is regrettable," Park Tae-sung, a senior official at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, told reporters in South Korea.

He said a thorough analysis is required to study what impact the Japanese measure would have on South



This April 26, 2019, photo shows Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry building in Tokyo. AP

Korean exports of semiconductors.

The change would mean the approval process will be delayed for such products, where Japan is a significant supplier.

Before the latest move, the exports required only a single encompassing approval process. Now the ministry approval will be delayed on average by 90 days, a ministry official said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

In a landmark ruling in October, South Korea's top court ordered Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp. to pay 100 million won (\$88,000) each to four plaintiffs forced to work for the company when Japan colonized the Korean Peninsula from 1910-45.

But the company refused, siding with Japan's long-held position that

all colonial-era compensation issues were settled by a 1965 treaty that restored diplomatic relations between the two governments. Japanese government officials have also rejected the ruling.

The Supreme Court in South Korea also issued a similar verdict on Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to financially compensate 10 Koreans for forced labor.

Other exports affected by Tokyo's decision are what is called "resist" for making semiconductors and hydrogen fluoride used for semiconductors, pharmaceuticals and polymers, including nylon and Teflon.

Japan's longtime position is that all historical compensation issues were settled when Tokyo and Seoul signed a treaty in 1965 that restored diplomatic ties.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China promises to ease foreign access to gas, call centers

BEIJING (AP)—China promised Sunday to allow more foreign ownership of gas pipelines, call centers and some other businesses in the latest of a series of market-opening measures. The Communist Party has announced a series of tariff cuts and market-opening steps over the past 18 months aimed at making its state-dominated economy more productive. The moves come amid trade tension with Washington, though none directly addresses American complaints about Beijing's technology ambitions and controls on foreign companies. Sunday's Cabinet announcement also promised more foreign access to some businesses in agriculture and mining. Business groups welcome the changes but say many have little effect so far on foreign companies. Business groups say they need to see regulations for industries that are to be opened before they can know whether those will be profitable for foreign newcomers, who will face entrenched Chinese competition.

Oregon approves paid family and medical leave

SALEM, ORE. (AP)—Oregon will become the 8th state in the nation to offer paid family and medical leave. Senators voted 21-6 Sunday to send the governor one of the most generous paid leave proposals in the nation. It offers all workers who make more than \$1,000 a year 12 weeks paid leave for family or medical reasons. It is the first paid leave plan to offer low-income workers 100% wage replacement. Businesses and employees will be required to contribute to help fund the program. Small businesses are exempted from contributing. The measure now heads to the governor's desk. Gov. Kate Brown has said she will sign. Workers will start seeing benefits in 2023.

Japanese manufacturers displaying less confidence in economy

TOKYO (AP)—A closely watched central bank survey shows sentiments among major manufacturers in Japan's economy are worsening for the second straight quarter straight amid worries about trade tensions

Nation

Navy SEAL trial exposes divide in normally secretive force

SAN DIEGO (AP)—It was called the “The Sewing Circle,” an unlikely name for a secret subsect of Navy SEALs. Its purpose was even more improbable: A chat forum to discuss alleged war crimes they said their chief, a decorated sniper and medic, committed on a recent tour of duty in Iraq.

The WhatsApp group would eventually lead to formal allegations that Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher fatally stabbed a wounded Islamic State captive in his care and shot civilians in Iraq in 2017.

Gallagher, 40, has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

A jury of mostly combat Marines will ultimately decide the fate of the 19-year-veteran and Bronze Star recipient charged with murder, attempted murder and conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline for posing with the corpse for photographs.

No matter the outcome, the court-martial at Naval Base San Diego has provided a rare view into the insular Navy SEAL community and likely will have a long-term impact on one of the military’s most secretive and revered forces. It has pitted veterans against each other both inside the courtroom and out in a fierce debate over brotherhood, morality and loyalty.

“SEALs, it seems to me,



AP

Navy Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher, right, walks with his wife, Andrea Gallagher as they arrive to military court on Naval Base San Diego, Wednesday, June 26, 2019, in San Diego.

have been seeing themselves as God-like on the battlefield, and there is a real danger in taking that view of one’s unit or one’s self,” said Gary Solis, a former military judge and Marine Corps prosecutor who teaches law at Georgetown University. “I think this will alert the SEAL community that the rules apply to them.”

The case has laid bare challenges among U.S. special forces as the United States

increasingly relies on such troops, which make up only 2% of the military yet carry out most of its battles around the globe.

A number of special forces members are on trial this year. A U.S. Navy SEAL last month pleaded guilty to hazing and assault charges for his role in the 2017 strangulation of a U.S. Army Green Beret in Africa.

The scandals have prompt-

ed a review by the Navy’s top commanders into the behavior of the special warfare teams. During Gallagher’s trial, it was revealed that nearly all his platoon members readily posed for photos with the dead militant and watched as Gallagher read his reenlistment oath near the body in an impromptu ceremony.

Lt. Jacob Portier, the officer in charge, has been charged separately for overseeing the

ceremony and not reporting the alleged stabbing.

The trial also has shown the struggles of military courts in prosecuting alleged war crimes. The lead prosecutor was removed after allegedly tracking the defense team’s emails to find a news leak, and the lead investigator acknowledged on the stand making mistakes.

Closing arguments are expected Monday. A jury of

five Marines and two sailors, one a SEAL, will weigh whether Gallagher, on his eighth deployment, went off the rails and fatally stabbed the war prisoner as a kind of trophy kill, or if the boy died from wounds sustained in an airstrike and Gallagher is being falsely accused by junior SEALs trying to permanently oust a platoon chief they hate.

Nearly a dozen SEALs have testified over the past two weeks. Most were granted immunity to protect them from being prosecuted for acts they described on the stand.

Seven SEALs said Gallagher unexpectedly stabbed the prisoner on May 3, 2017, moments after he and the other medics treated the 17-year-old boy.

Two SEALs testified they saw Gallagher plunge his knife into his neck, including Special Operator Corey Scott, who stunned the court when he said he was the one who ultimately killed the teen by plugging his breathing tube with his thumb as an act of mercy. The Navy has said it’s considering perjury charges against Scott.

ACROSS THE NATION

Bodies of 3 people killed in crash recovered from mountain

MOOSE PASS, Alaska (AP)—The Alaska Department of Public Safety says the bodies of three people killed in a plane accident in Alaska’s Kenai Peninsula have been recovered from the crash site. Spokeswoman Megan Peters say the bodies were brought back Sunday from a mountain on the north side of Tern Lake near Moose Pass. They are being taken to the State Medical Examiner’s Office in Anchorage for autopsies. Peters says the victims have been tentatively identified as pilot Michael Scott Christy, 73, his wife, Jean Tam, 69, both of Anchorage; and passenger Suzanne Glass, 29, of Sterling, Virginia. The small plane crashed Friday into a mountain on the north side of Tern Lake near Moose Pass, Alaska. State Troopers spokesman Tim DeSpain told the Anchorage Daily News. The survivor, 28-year-old Andrea Joy Cooper of Sterling,

Virginia, was on vacation in Alaska with friends when the plane crashed. Cooper suffered multiple broken bones and a partially collapsed lung, but was responsive in the hospital Saturday, her family told the Anchorage Daily News.

7 hurt when gunfire erupts at Louisiana nightclub

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—Police continued Sunday to investigate a shooting at a Baton Rouge nightclub that left seven people injured, even as officials in Louisiana’s capital city pledged to do more to fight gun violence after several high-profile shootings. Local news outlets report gunfire strafed the inside and parking lot of the Stadium Ultralounge & Bar early Saturday, apparently after a fight in which video footage showed one man breaking a bottle over another man’s head. At least two people were seriously wounded at the Stadium Ultralounge & Bar, although not all injuries may stem from gunshots, au-

thorities said. No arrests have been made and officials on Saturday urged people who might know something to contact them. Macy Bell, 21, of Baton Rouge, was at the club when the shooting broke out. She told The Advocate that the fighting began when someone smashed a bottle over another person’s head. Bell remembers the shooting went on for “about five minutes.” The gunfire continued outside. “They were shooting everywhere,” Bell said. “It was a whole war zone.”

10 killed when small plane crashes on takeoff in Texas

DALLAS (AP)—Ten people were killed when a small airplane crashed into a hangar as it was taking off from a Dallas-area airport Sunday morning, a spokeswoman for the town of Addison, Texas, said. Mary Rosenbleeth said no one aboard the twin-engine plane survived the crash at the Addison Municipal Airport, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) north of Dallas.

The Beechcraft BE-350 King Air hit an unoccupied hangar soon after 9 a.m., according to the Federal Aviation Administration. The agency said that the blaze destroyed the plane. Video showed black smoke billowing from the building and a gaping hole in the hangar. Officials have not released the identities of the people who died. Rosenbleeth said the Dallas County medical examiner’s office confirmed the fatalities to the town and that authorities are still working to notify the families of the victims. The plane was headed for St. Petersburg, Florida, said Edward Martelle, a spokesman for the town of Addison. Martelle said the plane was taking off at the south end of the airport and had just lifted off the runway when it veered left, dropped its left wing and went into the hangar.

NYC pride parade is one of largest in movement’s history

NEW YORK (AP)—Exuberant crowds carrying rain-

bow colors filled New York City streets Sunday for one of the largest pride parades in the history of the gay-rights movement, a dazzling celebration of the 50th anniversary of the infamous police raid on the Stonewall Inn. Marchers and onlookers took over much of midtown Manhattan with a procession that lasted hours and paid tribute to the uprising that began at the tavern when patrons resisted officers on June 28, 1969. The parade in New York and others like it across the nation concluded a month of events marking the anniversary. Earlier in the day, a crowd of about 2,000 people gathered outside the Stonewall Inn. At the Queer Liberation March near the bar, some participants said the larger Pride parade had become too commercialized and heavily policed.

Rescued hiker in California used sun-warmed rocks for heat

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A hiker who went missing in the mountains north of Los

Angeles survived by wrapping himself with a jacket and towel and staying by sun-warmed rocks for heat, authorities said on Sunday. Janet Henderson of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Search and Rescue told KCBS-TV that Eugene Jo, 73, stayed alive for a week by getting close at night to rocks that warmed by the daytime sun and drinking water from a creek. “He got in close next to the hot rocks because it is very hot up there and those rocks do heat up and that’s how he kept himself warm at night,” Henderson said. Jo heard rescuers’ voices on Saturday and yelled for help, she said. He was taken to the hospital and later released. Jo went hiking with a group to the 8,000-foot (2,438-meter) summit of Mount Waterman on June 22 when he became separated from them. More than 70 people were searching for him in the mountains Saturday, said Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Sgt. Greg Taylor.

Asia

Trump and Kim's DMZ meeting mixes show and substance

By ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP)—"Ok, let's do it."

With those words, a deliberate step and a pat on the arm of Kim Jong Un, President Donald Trump became the first sitting American leader to step into North Korea on Sunday as the two made history at the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone. The made-for-television moment was unthinkable just two years ago, when the men were trading base insults and grim threats.

Trump's three-hour stop at the DMZ—of which about 80 minutes were spent with Kim—was a display of hand-shake-diplomacy for the history books, but also a chaotic spectacle reflective of the last-minute nature of the invitation to the authoritarian leader to join him at the border between the Koreas.

Afterward, it was unclear whether the meeting was more show than substance. Other than the headline-grabbing moment and the unprecedented images, Trump's only accomplishment appeared to be securing an agreement to restart nuclear talks that he himself had walked out on in February during his last summit with Kim in Vietnam.

Trump had long planned a visit to the DMZ, dating to 2017 when a scheduled trip was canceled by fog, but aides said the public invitation for Kim to join him there was as spontaneous as it seemed. In typical Trump fashion, it started with a tweet.

"I would meet him at the Border/DMZ just to shake his hand and say Hello(?)!" Trump posted about 30 hours before the visit.

The secrecy that had surrounded the ill-fated attempted visit two years ago was replaced by a media frenzy stoked by the president himself.

Trump said North Korea quickly responded and expressed interest in the invitation. U.S. and North Korean officials spent much of Saturday evening and early Sunday trying to surmount the immense logistical and security hurdles on such a tight timetable.

Even Kim seemed unable to contain his surprise when the meeting occurred.

"I never expected to meet you at this place," he told Trump as they shook hands across the concrete slab marking the Military Demar-



In this Sunday, June 30, 2019, photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, left, and U.S. President Donald Trump shake hands over the military demarcation line at the border village of Panmunjom in Demilitarized Zone. AP

lency would step forward, you will be the first U.S. president to cross the border."

As Trump took his first steps, the former reality television star quickly moved to stage-manage the show of his own creation.

"Come on," he said to Kim, tapping his elbow, as they walked side by side 10 paces into the North.

After a moment, they turned to face the press waiting in the South.

Trump escorted Kim back to the South as a scuffle broke out between reporters and North Korean security guards, with officials shoving and trying to block the press from capturing the moment.

The jostling intensified as the leaders moved to the Freedom House on the southern side of Panmunjom, where they made brief remarks to reporters and then met for roughly 50 minutes. A photographer was knocked to the ground and one reporter was seen in tears.

At one point, incoming White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham side-checked a North Korean guard who was blocking reporters from the room while others security officials frantically tried to cordon off the area with yellow rope.

Grisham ended up with bruises from the fracas. The U.S. Secret Service intervened in the pushing and shoving match.

The president was joined in the Freedom House conversation with Kim by his daughter and son-in-law, Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, both senior White House advisers. Chief of staff Mick Mulvaney milled about with other aides. National security adviser John Bolton, a skeptic of the talks with Kim, was en route to Ulaanbaatar to consult with Mongolian officials on regional security issues.

At one point, Ivanka Trump and Kushner stopped to enter one of the blue huts straddling the border between the two Koreas. Asked by a reporter about her trip to the North, she replied, "Surreal."

And a sequel could be in the works: Trump told reporters he had invited Kim to Washington.

tion Line between North and South.

It was Trump who first

broached the notion of walking into North Korea. "Would you like me to step across?"

he asked Kim as an interpreter translated his words to Korean. "Would you like me to?"

Kim waved Trump over, replying through an interpreter of his own: "If your excel-

ASIAN BRIEFS

Powerful bomb blast rocks Afghan capital

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A powerful bomb blast rocked the Afghan capital early Monday, rattling windows, sending smoke billowing from Kabul's downtown area and wounding at least 50 people, officials and a medic said. The explosion occurred as the streets in the capital were packed with morning commuters. Officials and police were at the scene of the blast and few details were available. Ambulance sirens screamed throughout the downtown area as they rushed to the scene. Mohammad Karim, a police official in the area of the attack, said a car bomb exploded outside a Defense Ministry building. Militants then ran into a nearby high-rise located in a crowded market and began firing down on the ministry. Police and special Afghan security forces were swarming the area and cordoned it off. Kabul's chief police spokesman, Firdous Farhamaz, could only confirm the explosion, but was unclear on the target or the type of explosive device. Ambulance worker Mohammed Zahir said at least 50 people were wounded.

Bus crashes into gorge in India's Kashmir, killing 31

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—An overcrowded minibus crashed into a gorge in Indian-controlled Kashmir on Monday, killing at least 31 people and injuring another 7, officials said. The bus

plunged off the Himalayan mountain road as its driver negotiated a curve and rolled down into a 150-meter (500-foot) deep gorge along a rocky stream, said civil administrator Angrez Singh Rana. He said officials were investigating whether it was a mechanical failure or driver's negligence. Top police officer M.K Sinha said the bus hit the rocks and was torn apart in several pieces. He said the 27-seat bus was overcrowded. Rescue teams have evacuated seven injured to hospitals, where all of them are in critical condition. On Thursday, a minibus carrying students to a picnic crashed into a gorge along another Himalayan road in Kashmir, killing at least 11 and injuring seven others.

Hong Kong marks handover to China with ceremony and protests

HONG KONG (AP)—The embattled leader of Hong Kong pledged Monday to be more responsive to public sentiment, as police faced off with protesters outside a ceremony marking the 22nd anniversary of the former British colony's return to China. Police used riot shields and pepper spray to push back hundreds of helmeted protesters who tried to advance down closed streets toward the harborfront venue, where the Chinese and Hong Kong flags were raised together and two helicopters and a small flotilla passed by. Hong Kong leaders, mainland China representatives and invited guests

watched the ceremony on a screen inside the city's cavernous convention center instead of outside as they normally do. The government cited inclement weather after light rain fell earlier in the morning.

Japan resumes commercial whaling, seen as face-saving end

TOKYO (AP)—Japan has resumed commercial whaling after 31 years, meeting a long-cherished goal of traditionalists that's seen as a largely lost cause. Whaling boats embarked Monday on their first commercial hunts since 1988, when Japan switched to so-called research whaling, but will stay within the country's exclusive economic waters. Japan's six-month notice to withdraw from the International Whaling Commission took effect Sunday. The Fisheries Agency said the catch quota through the end of this year is set at 227 whales, fewer than the 333 Japan hunted in the Antarctic in recent years. The quota for this season's catch, planned for release in late June, was withheld until Monday

apparently to avoid criticism during the Group of 20 summit that concluded over the weekend in Osaka. As the boats left port, whalers, their families and local officials in two major whaling towns, Shimoneoseki in southwestern Japan, which is Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's electoral constituency, and Kushiro in the north, celebrated the fresh start, hoping for a safe return and a good harvest.

World

At least 7 dead as Sudanese stage protests against army rule

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—

Tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets in Sudan's capital and elsewhere in the country Sunday calling for civilian rule nearly three months after the army forced out long-ruling autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

A government official said at least seven people had been killed and nearly 200 injured during the demonstrations.

The protests came amid a weeks-long standoff between the ruling military council and protest leaders. Talks between the two sides over a power-sharing agreement collapsed earlier this month when security forces violently broke up a protest camp in Khartoum.

The ensuing clampdown resulted in at least 128 people killed across Sudan, according to protest organizers. Authorities put the death toll at 61, in-

cluding three security forces.

Soliman Abdel-Gabar, acting undersecretary of health, reported Sunday night that at least seven people died during the day's disturbances. He said 181 people were injured, including 27 with bullet wounds.

The marches, the first since the June 3 crackdown, also mark the 30th anniversary of the Islamist-backed coup that brought al-Bashir to power in 1989, toppling Sudan's last elected government. The military removed al-Bashir in April amid mass protests against his rule.

The crowds gathered at several points across the capital and its sister city of Omdurman before marching toward the homes of those killed since the uprising began.

"This is a very important day for the Sudanese people," pro-

tester Hamdi Karamallah said.

The protest movement erupted in December, triggered by an economic crisis. The protesters remained in the streets after al-Bashir was overthrown and jailed, fearing that the military would cling to power or preserve much of his regime.

Osman Mirghani, a Sudanese analyst and the editor of the daily newspaper al-Tayar, said the marches "changed the equation" in favor of the Forces for Declaration of Freedom

and Change, which represents the protesters.

"Now, all pressure cards are in the hands of the FDFC. The marches corrected the situation," he said.

On Sunday, protesters chanted anti-military slogans like "Burhan's council, just fall", according to video clips circulated online. Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan is head of the military council.

Video clips showed protesters running away from se-

curity forces in the streets of Khartoum and seeking shelter from clouds of tear gas.

On a highway leading to Khartoum's international airport, a convoy of troops and riot police allowed some demonstrators to pass through as they headed toward the house of a protester who was killed earlier this month.

The protester's mother was standing outside and joined the demonstration. They waved Sudanese flags and chanted

slogans calling for civilian rule.

Mohammed Yousef al-Mustafa, a spokesman for the Sudanese Professionals' Association, a leading protest organization, told The Associated Press that security forces used tear gas to disperse protesters in Omdurman and the district of Bahri in the capital.

He said protests also erupted in Atbara, a railway city north of the capital and the birthplace of the uprising that led to al-Bashir's ouster.

Drowned migrants return to El Salvador for burial on Monday

LA HACHADURA, El Salvador (AP)—

The young father and daughter who drowned in each other's arms last week in an attempt to swim across the Rio Grande to the United States have been returned to El Salvador for an expected burial at a private ceremony in the capital Monday.

Their bodies entered the Central American country by land Sunday from neighboring Guatemala.

Photographs of Valeria, lying face down in the water with her little arm wrapped around the neck of her father, Oscar Alberto Martínez, broke hearts around the world and underscored the dangers that migrants undertake in trying to reach the U.S.

The father and daughter were swept away by the current in the river between Matamoros, Mexico, and Brownsville, Texas.

Martínez, 25, and his wife, Tania Vanessa Ávalos, 21, had been living with his mother and apparently felt that their salaries working at a pizza parlor and as a restaurant cashier would never be enough to purchase a modest home in their suburb of



Candles are placed next to the border fence that separates Mexico from the United States, in memory of migrants who have died during their journey toward the U.S., in Tijuana, Mexico, late Saturday, June 29, 2019.

San Salvador.

That dream to save money for a home led the family to set out for the United States, according to Martínez's mother, Rosa Ramírez.

The neighborhood they left behind in El Salvador is a humble bedroom community where most people live in low-

rise, two-bedroom homes with a combination kitchen-living room-dining room, worth about \$10,000-\$15,000 each.

Residents say violence and extortion has eased in the neighborhood, but that poverty and ambition still drive many to migrate.

In the Mexican border city

of Tijuana, people included a picture of the drowned father and daughter in a memorial erected in the memory of migrants who have died trekking north toward the U.S. The pictures, candles and crosses of the memorial were placed next to the U.S.-erected fence along the border.

Migrant aid ship rams Italian police boat; captain arrested

LAMPEDUSA, Sicily (AP)—

The German captain of a humanitarian rescue ship with 40 migrants aboard has been arrested after she rammed her vessel into an Italian border police motorboat while docking at a tiny Mediterranean island Saturday in defiance of Italy's anti-migrant interior minister.

Jeering onlookers shouted "handcuffs, handcuffs" as Carola Rackete, the 31-year-old captain, was escorted off the boat at Lampedusa, which is closer to north Africa than to the Italian mainland.

The migrants, meanwhile, hugged personnel of the German Sea-Watch charity who helped them during their 17 days at sea. Some kissed the ground after disembarking from

Sea-Watch 3 at dawn's break.

The migrants had been rescued from an unseaworthy vessel launched by Libya-based human traffickers but Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini had refused to let them disembark on Lampedusa until other European Union countries agreed to take them. Five nations pledged to do so on Friday: Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Portugal.

The humanitarian rescue operation ended dramatically and violently when Rackete decided she could no longer wait for permission to dock given the odyssey of the migrants aboard.

"It's enough. After 16 days following the rescue, #SeaWatch3 enters in port," the or-

ganization tweeted early Saturday shortly before the ship started heading dockside.

The captain steered her vessel toward the island before dawn, ramming the much smaller police boat, which was blocking Sea-Watch 3's path to the dock.

In past years, Lampedusa had won international praise for its generous welcome to many of the hundreds of thousands of rescued migrants.

But even as the migrants' numbers dwindled as Italy cracked down on private rescue ships, many Italians lost patience, including economic migrants ineligible for asylum. Salvini's anti-migrant League party has soared in popularity.

Some on the island ap-

plauded when the migrants disembarked. But another group yelled insults, including "Gypsy, go home" to the captain. A senator from the opposition Democrats, Davide Faraone, filmed the intense scene and then posted it on Twitter.

"You must handcuff her immediately," a woman shouted before Rackete was hustled into a police car.

Her lawyer, Leonardo Marino, told Italian state TV that she was arrested for investigation of resisting a warship, a reference to plowing into the motorboat of the customs and border police force. No one was injured but the motorboat's side was damaged. If convicted, Rackete risks up to 10 years in prison.

WORLD BRIEFS

Syria says Israeli airstrike kills 4 civilians, wounds 21

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—

Israeli warplanes attacked military positions in central Syria early Monday, with a missile near the capital, Damascus, killing four civilians and wounding 21, Syrian state media reported. Israeli warplanes fired missiles from Lebanese airspace targeting military positions in the central province of Homs and suburbs of Damascus, said Syrian state news agency SANA, adding that Syrian air defense forces opened fire toward the Israeli missiles. SANA said the dead included a baby and that other children were among the wounded in the town of Sahnaya, southwest of Damascus. Israel does not usually comment on reports concerning its strikes in neighboring Syria, though it has recently acknowledged striking Iranian targets there. On June 12, Israeli warplanes struck a Syrian army position in the country's south.

Turkey says 6 nationals held in Libya, vows to respond

ISTANBUL (AP)—

Turkey said Sunday that six of its nationals were being held by a Libyan force and vowed to respond to any attacks on its vessels or interests. The Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement it would consider Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter's "illegal militia forces" to be "legitimate targets" if the Turks are not released. Earlier, Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said there would be

Heat wave brings Germany new June high for 2nd time in days

BERLIN (AP)—

Germany has recorded a new high temperature for June just days after an early summer heat wave toppled a 72-year-old record. German meteorological service DWD said the central town of Bad Kreuznach reached at least 38.9 degrees Celsius (102 F) on Sunday. A later reading showed the mercury climbing to 39.3 degrees Celsius (102.7 F) but DWD says it hasn't been confirmed. The high of 38.6 Celsius registered on Wednesday beat a June record in Germany that had stood since 1947. An early summer heat wave has baked parts of Europe since Tuesday. While addressing the faithful assembled in St. Peter's Square on another uncomfortably hot day in Rome, Pope Francis said he wished all workers a period of rest during the summer, saying the break would be good for them and their families.

Overdrive

Ford Explorer puts its best foot forward

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK—It's raining at New York's LaGuardia Airport as I write this, and it's led to massive delays for Delta Airlines. Nearly five hours after I was scheduled to depart, I am still waiting to board, something that will allegedly happen four hours from now. Never mind the flight after mine has boarded and left; I have to wait. And what does the airline have to say about ruining my life today?

"So sorry for the delay, but it's raining. So sorry."

It's remarkable that when airlines make these routine SNAFUs, they get away with impunity. In contrast, when automakers make the slightest little slip, there's hell to pay. And so, here I sit, hour five of a nine-hour delay because it's raining.

Drivers handle rain—and worse—somewhat better than airlines do, and indeed this is what has made SUVs such as the Ford Explorer the vehicle of choice for so many motorists. With four-wheel drive and an 8-inch ride height, Explorers shrug off any weather.

So it's big news when the Ford Explorer gets a top-to-bottom redesign, as it has for 2020.

Abandoning the front-wheel-drive Volvo XC90 platform it had formerly used, the Explorer uses new rear-wheel drive architecture, although all-wheel drive is available. The switch can be seen in the new vehicle's updated styling, with front wheels with little front overhang, lending a sportier air to the Explorer's gently sloping roofline and sharper lines, although its look

The 2020 Ford Explorer's lineup features standard, XLT, Limited, Limited Hybrid, ST and Platinum models.

FORD/TNS



isn't radically different from what's come before.

Base LT, XLT and Limited models come with a 2.3-liter EcoBoost turbocharged four-cylinder engine that produces 300 horsepower, while the sporty ST and fully optioned Platinum trims get a 3.0-liter EcoBoost turbocharged V-6 engine that produces 400 horsepower in the ST and 365 horsepower in the Platinum.

For the first-timer, a Hybrid with a normally aspirated 3.3-liter V-6 and an electric motor that produces 318 horsepower and can tow 5,000 pounds. Base LT, XLT, and Limited trims come with rear-wheel or all-wheel drive, while ST and Platinum models come solely with all-wheel drive. A 10-speed automatic transmission is standard.

Opting for the V-6 engine also brings with it a larger 20-gallon fuel tank; other models make do with an 18-gallon tank.

Among drivelines, the Hy-

brid appears to be the best compromise. The base EcoBoost suffers from turbo lag off the line, and at speed it revs higher in the rev range than the other power plants offered, with an engine note that constantly reminds you that it's the base driveline. This also results in more shifting from the transmission, although shifts are very smooth. In contrast, the ST and Platinum offer effortless acceleration. The ST is very much the raucous frat boy—athletic, strong, and always ready to party—while the Platinum is sober, self-assured adult and nearly as fast as the ST.

Still, it seems the Hybrid is the ideal driveline. While only slightly more powerful than the 2.3-liter EcoBoost, the combination of a normally aspirated V-6 and the electric motor's instant torque availability lends it a peppy feel off the line, as well as at speed. And it offers a greater driving range

on a single tank of fuel. It has more power than most drivers will need, and will keep them happy when it's time to fill the tank, which is smaller than in other Explorers.

It's pretty remarkable that Ford has engineered a rear-wheel drive hybrid, which allows them to dial up driving fun while also providing a remarkably tight turning radius. It also doesn't restrict how much horsepower they can add to the two-wheel drive variants, something that isn't true of front-wheel drive crossovers.

Ford officials say there is little suspension tuning difference among the different Explorer models save the ST. However, there appears to be a difference since the base 2.3-liter EcoBoost driveline is lighter than the others offered, particularly the Hybrid and its naturally-aspirated 3.3-liter V-6 with battery pack and other hybrid bits. The added weight settles the ride compli-

ance, whose soft nature and greater body motions can be unsettling. By contrast, the ST is far more vigorous and is the most fun to drive of the bunch, although none are as fun to drive as you might expect.

Up to seven selectable drive modes tailor the Explorer's response to road conditions on demand, while Ford Co-Pilot360, a suite of driver-assist technologies, is standard. Active Park Assist 2.0, is available, which automatically parallel or perpendicular parks the Explorer without driver intervention.

While it's parking itself, you'll find the Explorer's first two rows comfortably offer good leg and headroom, although the third row is best left to children or friends you intensely dislike. The cushion is inches off the floor, ensuring that adults have a knees-up seating position. That said, the ST's front thrones could use more side bolstering. As you'd expect, lower trim lev-

NUTS & BOLTS

■ Base price: \$52,280
■ Engine: 3.3-liter DOHC six-cylinder engine
■ Horsepower/Torque: 318/322 pound-feet
■ EPA fuel economy (city/highway): Not available
■ Fuel required: Unleaded regular
■ Wheelbase/Length/Width: 119.1/198.8/89.3 inches
■ Cargo capacity: 18.2-87.8 cubic feet
■ Towing capacity: 5,000 pounds
■ Ground clearance: 7.9 inches
■ Curb weight: 4,969 pounds

els get a second-row bench, while upper trim levels get captain's chairs.

The instrument panel has a simple design and is easy to use at first glance. The steering wheel controls work well, once you're familiar with the layout. The 8-inch infotainment screen is adequately sized, but the screen graphics take up too much space. Platinum and ST models get a larger screen that's more helpful, but the space-robbing graphics that are problematic on the smaller screen only grow in size on the larger one.

Better are the little touches throughout the interior, the vertically tilted wireless charging pad that's nestled under the lip of the center console bin, keeping it safe from spilling beverages, or the flat surface between the second row seats and the doors that make entry top third row easier.

Small objections aside, the 2020 Ford Explorer proves very satisfactory as an all-wheel drive family bus, with handsome styling, good handling and the latest in technology.

It sure beats flying.

When you want a car built like a tank

Q : I am a single woman in my mid-70s, and I still drive my 1992 Volvo 240 sedan, although I can't find an affordable mechanic, which makes me very uneasy. About 45 years ago, I almost was killed when a Mazda with a mentally ill driver slammed into my VW bug at about 40 mph, and I still have physical limitations as a result. I purchased a Dodge Dart, the sturdiest car I could find until it died a natural death and then got the Volvo, another sturdiest car I could find.

My friends say newer cars are much safer than old Volvos and I should replace it with a more common car like a Toyota or Honda hybrid, preferably with crush zones, special sensing equipment and safety equipment. I doubt I will be driving in five years and wonder about this advice. I can afford a new car, but hesitate because they are small and have a plastic look, and I am unused to that swept back windshield that reduces wind resistance. Clearly, I am very ignorant about cars, something one friend said you knew a lot about. I have no family for guidance. So I am asking for your advice.

A: There's no question your Volvo is built like a tank! I can

still recall the bank vault door sound mine made when closing a door! I believe your 240 has a single driver's side air bag and knee bolster, along with anti-lock brakes. How things have changed!

Let's look at a new Honda Accord's safety features by comparison: Driver and passenger air bags, front and rear head air bags, front side air bags, 4-wheel ABS, brake assist, electronic stability control, daytime running lights, traction control, lane departure warning, lane keeping assist, lane watch, cross traffic monitor, collision mitigation and auto high beams.

Tremendous strides have also been made in occupant protection related to body design with crumple zones, as you mentioned.

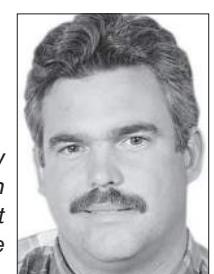
Many of the features can help protect you from boo-boos you might make, in addition to the craziness of others who are inattentive or simply rude. I notice that as the years go by I make more mistakes per mile, missing something from the corner of my eye or because my reaction time has slackened.

Adding cameras to the car sure helps, I'll bet you'd really like the lane watch and cross traffic features once you've tried them! Collision mitigation and brake assist are also great fea-

UNDER THE HOOD

By BRAD BERGHELD
Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.



tures to compensate for reduced reaction time. Radar senses your proximity and closing velocity to vehicles ahead and dives on the brakes as needed to reduce the chance of hitting another vehicle or object. Brake assist looks at brake pedal urgency and ramps up assist, teaming with ABS to compensate for tentative/insufficient braking efforts.

There's no question modern cars are heavy on plastic, but once you try out the comfort, quietness and convenience features, you're likely to never look back! Added piece of mind would come from driving a car under warranty for several years. Perhaps you might rent an Accord, Camry or similar for a weekend, take a friend along and explore the features together? Then you can decide what's best for you!

Life & Style

Taylor Swift pens scathing post about Scooter Braun

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Taylor Swift is not staying silent over the sale of her masters to Scooter Braun.

In a scathing Tumblr post Sunday, the pop superstar writes she is sad and grossed out that her music catalog now belongs to Braun, whom she accuses of subjecting her to years of incessant and manipulative bullying, referencing clashes with Kim Kardashian and Kanye West.

"This is my worst case scenario," Swift writes.

Braun's Ithaca Holdings announced Sunday that it is acquiring Big Machine La-

bel Group, which released all of Swift's studio albums and owns her masters. Swift says she learned of the sale Sunday.

Swift left Big Machine and signed with Universal Music Group in November because she says she knew that re-signing with the group that had managed her since she was 15 would only result in her not owning her future work.

"When I left my masters in (Big Machine Label Group founder Scott Borchetta's) hands, I made peace with the fact that eventually he would sell them," she writes. "Never in my



AP
In a Saturday, June 1, 2019 file photo, Taylor Swift performs at Wango Tango, at Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson, Calif.

worst nightmares did I imagine the buyer would be Scooter."

Braun, she alleges, got two clients, including Justin

Bieber, to bully her online about a leaked and illegally recorded snippet of a phone call she had with Kardashian. She

also references when West, a Braun client, organized a "revenge porn" music video which strips my body naked."

She writes that now Braun has "stripped her" of her life's work that she "wasn't given an opportunity to buy."

"My musical legacy is about to lie in the hands of someone who tried to dismantle it," she writes.

Representatives for Braun

and Borchetta did not immediately respond to request for comment.

Bieber responded in an Instagram post late Sunday apologizing for hurting her at the time, and also defending Braun who he says, "didn't have anything to do with it" and has her back.

"For you to take it to social media and get people to hate on (S)cooter isn't fair," Bieber wrote.

Braun's wife, Yael Cohen, also chimed in on Instagram refuting Swift's claim that she found out the news with the rest of the world.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Toy Story 4" hung onto the top spot in its second week in theaters and the horror sequel "Annabelle Comes Home" opened in line with expectations, but the Cinderella story of the weekend was actually the third place movie: "Yesterday."

The Danny Boyle-directed musical romantic comedy featuring the music of the Beatles debuted well over industry expectations, earning an estimated \$17 million from North American theaters. In a summer where most films have debuted either under or at industry tracking, which are often lowball projections, and original comedies have struggled to find audiences, "Yesterday" proved to be the exception.

Starring relative newcomer Himesh Patel, "Yesterday" imagines a world where only one man remembers the music of the Beatles and decides to present their catalog of hits as his own.

Although critics were mixed,

'Toy Story 4' repeats at No. 1 over 'Annabelle' 'Yesterday'

audiences, who were mostly female (56 and over the age of 25 (75%)) have embraced the film with an A- CinemaScore and a 90% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes.

Universal's President of Domestic Theatrical Distribution Jim Orr says he tries to use the word "thrilled" judiciously, but that it applies here.

"Among all of the sequels and all of the explosions of the summer, this is a very charming, original, whimsical musical romance with iconic music and amazing performances... (and direction)," Orr said. "All of that adds up to a great, great run at the domestic box office."

1. "Toy Story 4," \$57.9 million (\$80.6 million international).
2. "Annabelle Comes Home," \$20.4 million (\$45 million international).
3. "Yesterday," \$17 million

Even Warner Bros., which has the Bruce Springsteen-themed film "Blinded by the Light" coming later this summer was heartened by "Yesterday's" launch, which motivated a solidly adult demographic to trek out to the movie theater on opening weekend.

As Comscore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian put it: "It's not always the No. 1 film that's the big story."

The No. 1 film was once again "Toy Story 4," which added \$57.9 million from domestic theaters, down 52% from its debut last weekend. Globally the film has already netted \$496.5 million.

Of the top grossing films of

2019, Disney now occupies the top four spots with "Avengers: Endgame," "Captain Marvel," "Aladdin" and "Toy Story 4."

In second place was the third Annabelle film, "Annabelle Comes Home," which debuted on over 3,500 screens Wednesday. The Warner Bros. horror earned \$20.4 million over the weekend and \$31.2 million in its first five days.

Although it is a franchise low—the first two opened over \$35 million—with a budget of \$27 million, it did well enough to justify its existence.

"This was a reasonable movie to make," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros.' head of domestic distribution. "You don't have to

exceed on every one."

He noted that the "Conjuring Universe" is the most successful horror franchise of all time with over \$1.6 billion in ticket sales. And after a few back-to-back Conjuring spinoffs, the franchise is taking bit of a breather; "The Conjuring 3" won't hit theaters until after Labor Day next year.

"Aladdin" and "The Secret Life of Pets 2" rounded out the top five. "Avengers: Endgame" also made it back into the top 10 after Disney added over 1,000 screens this weekend. It added an estimated \$5.5 million, bringing its domestic total to \$841.3 million. Globally, it's now at \$2.76 billion.

6. "Men In Black: International," \$6.6 million (\$11.5 million international).
7. "Avengers: Endgame," \$5.5 million (\$2.3 million international).
8. "Child's Play," \$4.3 million (\$1.4 million international).
9. "Rocketman," \$3.9 million (\$2.6 million international).

While some have viewed the "bring back" campaign as a naked "cash grab" to try to beat the "Avatar" record (\$2.79 billion worldwide), Dergarabedian thinks it has more to do with "Spider-Man: Far From Home," which opens next weekend and picks up right after the events of "Endgame."

The weekend overall is down nearly 15% from last year and the year to date deficit is around 9.4%.

"We've been trying to dig our way out of this deficit for it seems like forever," Dergarabedian said. "Some of the movies that were expected to be grand slam home runs were more like triples."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Unexpected parenthood keeps mismatched couple together

DEAR ABBY: Four years ago, I became friends with a co-worker and things took off too fast. Within a couple of months, I became pregnant. We were thrown together without really even knowing each other because, deep down, we wanted a family and decided to stick it out.

Well, it's been a hell of a ride. I ended up having to leave because neither one of us was happy, and it wasn't the greatest environment to raise our daughter in. I came back a few months later, and we have been trying our best to get along and be great parents for her. But our past issues with each other constantly raise their ugly heads and cause problems that make us want to split up.

I have suggested individual and couples counseling, but he isn't into it, and it's always a blame game between us. I'm beyond tired of it. My head says go, but my heart says stay. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

WEIGHING THE PROS AND CONS

DEAR WEIGHING: Your child's father may prefer to play the blame game because he's unwilling to own up to his part in the problem. Dragging an unwilling partner to counseling would be unproductive. However, that doesn't mean you shouldn't go without him. If you do, you will have a clearer understanding about whether and why you should continue living together. Keep in mind that a household where there is conflict is not a healthy environment for a child.

DEAR ABBY: My mother passed away a short time ago, and my cousin immediately posted about the funeral on social media without even mentioning me in her post, or asking me how I felt about such a posting.

Have people grown so self-centered and uncaring about other people's feelings that they think posts like this are appropriate without asking the immediate family's feelings on the matter? It seems to me it's a self-serving grab for attention and sympathy without any respect for the immediate family of the deceased. I really cannot find a way to forgive her actions.

HURT AND ANGRY IN THE EAST

DEAR HURT: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your mother. What happened is one of the regrettable aspects of living in the 21st century. Your cousin may be part of the generation that thinks every detail of their lives must be put online for consumption by an audience waiting with bated breath. If my guess is accurate, then I agree doing it without first running it by the immediate family was insensitive and thoughtless.

Not knowing your cousin, I don't know whether it was a "self-serving grab for attention." However, what's done is done. It's over. I hope you won't allow this to ruin your relationship with this relative or your memories of your dear mother.

DEAR ABBY: I've always wondered when it's appropriate

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



for a couple to start giving gifts as a couple vs. individually. I've seen couples who start early on in their relationship and others who have been together for what feels like forever who still individually give gifts.

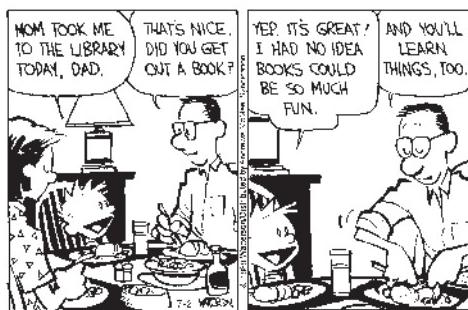
WONDERING IN TEXAS

DEAR WONDERING: There are no hard and fast rules about something like this. It may depend on all the circumstances involved, and also may have something to do with how independent from each other the couple is.

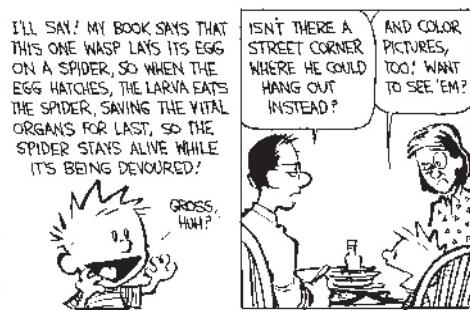
To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



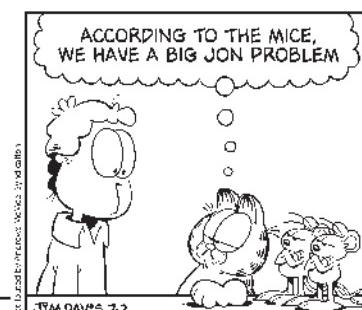
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Requirements:

Proven accounting experience, preferable as an Accounts receivable clerk or Accounts Payable Clerk. Familiarity with bookkeeping and basic accounting procedures. Competency in MS Office, databases and accounting software. Hand on Experience with spreadsheets and financial reports. Aptitude for numbers. Ability to perform filing and record keeping tasks. Data entry and word processing skills. Well organized. High school degree or Associate's Degree or relevant certification is a plus. Korean/Speaking/reading and writing is a plus to better communicate with Tour Company partners in Korea. A lot of account payable and receivables are from tour agencies from Korea who gave customers to handle while they are in Saipan. Most of this documents are in native Korean language and having an Account Clerk, who can read, write and speak the Korean language would be a great help to our company in making sure each transactions are accurate. In the event that are discrepancies, the Account Clerk would have to verify each transaction with the Korean Tour Agency to reconcile each transaction to ensure accuracies. Language barrier would be a great inconvenience to both our company and our tour agency partner in Korea in making sure each transaction are well documented and reconciled to reflect maximum accuracy.

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Interested applicants Send resume to boazcorp2017@gmail.com **or call 1-670-234-1667**

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Requirements:

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At least High school graduate. Must possess a Tour Guide Certificate from MVA/NMC.

Must possess a valid CNMI Driver's License. Must be willing to work flexible schedule. Must provide prior related experience certificate.

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Requirements:

Must have 12 months of experience working as hazmat tank truck driver (diesel); prior experience in petroleum diesel industry is preferred; must have knowledge with proper methods of loading and unloading of petroleum diesel to be transported. Must able to operate diesel tank truck vehicle; must have knowledge and trained on how to appropriately respond when there is emergency situation such as spills or leak during delivery; must have knowledge in emergency procedures and equipment; trained as hazmat tank truck driver; Graduate or High School or equivalent; valid training certificate in hazardous materials and transportation of dangerous goods is required; commercial driver's health certificate is required; must possess a current and valid CNMI driver's license and not be disqualified to operate a motor vehicle; police/court clearance is required.

Salary: \$8.00 - \$8.30 per hour

ACCOUNTANT

Job Duties:

Prepare, examine, and analyze accounting records, profit and loss statements, and other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting procedural standards; Analyze business operations, trends, costs, revenues, profit and loss statements, and obligations, to project future revenues and expenses; Provide reports to the management regarding the finances of the company; Establish tables of accounts, and assign entries to proper accounts; Develop, implement, modify, and document record keeping and accounting systems; Reconciles financial discrepancies by collecting and analyzing account information; Secures financial security by following internal controls; Assign schedule of payments to our main supplier and our lease obligations to the CNMI government by verifying documentation; Compute taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting and other tax requirements. Complies with federal and local legal requirements by reviewing existing and new regulations, enforcing adherence to requirements, and advising management on needed actions. Coordinate with the insurance company for the renewal of the company's workers compensation, auto insurance, fire and general liability insurance and employee's medical insurance. Prepare and provide documentation to our external auditor for the compilation of Financial Statements; perform any other duties as assigned.

Requirements:

Must have earned a Bachelor's degree in accounting with at least 2 or more years working experience as accountant. Prior experience in petroleum business is preferred. Must have a good communication and multitasking skills, organizational, self-motivation, responsible, and able to manage deadlines. Proficient in MS Word and Excel, and Sage 50 accounting system.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Durant leaves Warriors, joins Irving in Nets



The next time Kevin Durant plays in an NBA game, he will be wearing a Brooklyn Nets uniform.

Durant made a formal announcement Sunday on The Boardroom's Instagram channel. Regardless, this brings a quick resolution to the 10-time All-Star's free-agent decision.

It is a max salary deal for four years, \$164.3 million.

The Nets also are expected to get a commitment from Kyrie Irving shortly after free agency opens officially at 6 p.m. ET Sunday.

Durant spent the three previous seasons with Golden State, winning championships and Finals MVP awards in 2017 and 2018, but the Warriors were stopped by Toronto and injuries last season. Durant sustained a calf injury in the Western Conference semifinals and didn't return until Game 5 of the NBA Finals where he ruptured his Achilles in the second quarter.

Even though Durant is expected to miss all of the 2019-20 season recovering and rehabbing, there is belief around the league he will return to All-Star level. That's why teams were willing to spend max salary dollars on Durant despite the injury.

However, Durant is reportedly taking less money so that the Nets could accommodate DeAndre Jordan.

Jordan's deal is reportedly worth four years, \$40 million.

Jordan just finished up a season split between the Dallas Mavericks and New York Knicks in which he averaged 11.0 points, 13.1 rebounds and 1.1 blocks per game. He'll figure to give the Nets another imposing presence in the paint alongside Jarrett Allen.

Butler to Heat

Jimmy Butler has agreed to a sign-and-trade deal that will allow him to ink a four-year pact with the Miami Heat for a maximum contract of \$142 million, a person familiar with the negotiations said.

They were granted anonymity because terms of the deal will not be final until July 6, when the NBA's moratorium period ends.

The Heat will have to send wing Josh Richardson to the Philadelphia 76ers, as well as other assets potentially, in order to get the deal done.

The move gives Miami the star presence it has lacked since the breakup of the LeBron James-Dwyane Wade-Chris Bosh core. The Heat have been treading water the last five seasons, with two playoff appearances as Pat Riley has refused to fully em-



At left, in a March 20, 2019, file photo, Boston Celtics' Kyrie Irving is shown during an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers in Philadelphia. At right, in a May 8, 2019, file photo, Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant is shown during the first half of Game 5 of the team's second-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Houston Rockets in Oakland, Calif.

Jokic, fresh off a five-year, \$147 million deal, delivered a first-team All-NBA campaign.

Horford moves to Sixers

Al Horford agrees to four-year contract with Sixers.

One of Joel Embiid's toughest opponents over the past couple of seasons will be joining forces with Embiid in the frontcourt.

Al Horford has agreed to a four-year, \$109 million deal with the Sixers, a team source confirmed. ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski first reported the news. Horford's contract has \$97 million guaranteed and \$12 million in bonuses.

The 33-year-old Horford is a five-time All-Star. He averaged 13.5 points, 7.0 rebounds and 4.6 assists per game over the past three seasons as a center for the Celtics. Those numbers don't do justice to his impact, as Sixers fans know.

Horford is a stellar defensive player who gave Embiid trouble in their matchups. He's shot 37.1 percent from three-point range in the last four seasons.

Kawhi taking his time amid free agency frenzy

Free-agent star Kawhi Leonard will not partake in any meetings with prospective teams on the first day of free agency, league sources said.

Leonard, the 2019 Finals MVP who led the Toronto Raptors to their first NBA championship, will look to ramp up the process over the next couple of days, sources said.

Leonard is in Southern California preparing for his upcoming visits with the Los Angeles Lakers, Los Angeles Clippers and Toronto Raptors, but the forward will not be rushed into a decision, sources said.

Lakers legend Magic Johnson spoke to Leonard and his uncle, Dennis Robertson, over the phone on Sunday, sources said.

Murray just finished up a season in which he led the Brooklyn Nets, Leonard is the top

brace a rebuild.

Miami seems to be betting on Butler's acquisition attracting more free agents in 2020 when the Heat will be able to clear significant salary cap space.

Warriors get Russell, keep Thompson; Iguodala let go

The Warriors mitigated somewhat the loss of Kevin Durant to the Brooklyn Nets by reaching a deal to acquire guard D'Angelo Russell.

The people requested anonymity because they are not authorized to speak publicly until the deal is official.

In the sign-and-trade agreement, Russell will go to the Warriors on a four-year, \$117 million deal. To make the trade for Russell work within the confines of the salary cap, the Warriors had to unload salary, so they will trade Andre Iguodala to the Memphis Grizzlies along with future first-round picks.

Meanwhile, Klay Thompson has a new reason to smile after the devastation of his ACL tear in the NBA Finals and the heartbreak of a championship series loss.

The five-time All-Star and three-time NBA champion has reportedly agreed to a five-year, \$190 million deal with the Golden State Warriors, according to The New York Times and San Francisco Chronicle.

Thompson is expected to miss a significant portion of next season after suffering the injury when he landed awkwardly after a dunk attempt in

Rose to Pistons

Derrick Rose is hoping to prove last season wasn't a last gasp toward the end of a career that once appeared destined for the Hall of Fame.

The Detroit Pistons will be his next stop. He has agreed to terms on a two-year, \$15 million deal. They were granted anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the deal until the NBA's moratorium period ends Saturday.

The Pistons will add another player—they have reportedly shown interest in Shane Larkin, who played overseas last season.

But Rose, 30, will take up most of the Pistons' limited resources with only three possible roster spots remaining.

The Pistons will use most of the \$9.2 million mid-level exception to sign Rose.

Coming off a resurgent season with the Minnesota Timberwolves, the 2011 NBA MVP receives a raise from his bargain \$2.1 million salary last season.

Middleton, Lopez stay with Bucks

The Milwaukee Bucks were very much part of the craziness, as the future of the team's biggest free agents was decided about half an hour following the official start of free agency.

First came the news that Brook Lopez is coming back to Milwaukee on a four-year, \$52 million deal that includes no option years. Then came word that All-Star Khris Mid-

dleton will sign a five-year, \$178 million deal to remain with the Bucks.

Then came the surprise of the day for Milwaukee. Malcolm Brogdon, who was poised for restricted free agency after three years with the Bucks, was sent to the Indiana Pacers in a sign-and-trade deal. Brogdon will get four years and \$85 million with the Pacers, while the Bucks will get a first-round pick and two second-round picks in return.

With Brogdon headed to Indiana, the Bucks shored up their guard rotation by bringing back George Hill on a three-year, \$29 million contract. The third year of that deal is only partially guaranteed.

The Bucks added their first outside free agent late Sunday night, bringing in Robin Lopez—Brook's twin—on a deal that takes up their full Room Mid-Level Exception. Robin Lopez will make just shy of \$4.8 million in the first season of a two-year deal, with the second year being a player option.

Murray agrees to \$170M deal with Nuggets

In the middle of a frenetic free agency, Jamal Murray received his payday after helping lead the Denver Nuggets to the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference.

The Nuggets have agreed to a five-year, \$170 million deal with Murray, according to

Murray just finished up a season in which he led the 54-28 Nuggets in minutes

free agent available, and the league is eagerly waiting until the four-time All-Star selects his next destination.

The Lakers are positioned to sign one max player in free agency, and the Clippers have space for two max spots.

Possessing arguably the deepest roster in the association, the Raptors would be early favorites to represent the Eastern Conference in the NBA Finals if Leonard were to return.

Leonard, 27, produced career highs in points (26.6) and rebounds (7.3) in his lone season with the Raptors.

In eight seasons, the three-time All-Star has averaged 17.7 points, 6.3 rebounds and 1.8 steals.

Leonard is a two-time Defensive Player of the Year and was the NBA Finals MVP in 2014 for San Antonio.

Yankees complete London sweep of Red Sox

 LONDON (AP)—Gary Sánchez hit a go-ahead, two-run single during a nine-run seventh inning, and the New York Yankees overcame a four-run deficit to beat the Boston Red Sox 12-8 Sunday for a two-game sweep of the groundbreaking, high-scoring trip across the pond.

DJ LeMahieu doubled off Marcus Walden (6-1) leading off the seventh and hit a two-run double against Josh Taylor later in the inning as the Yankees opened an 11-4 lead, sending 14 batters to the plate in their highest-scoring inning in four years.

Didi Gregorius went deep against Ryan Brasier in the eighth, extending New York's record streak of games with home runs to 31. Combined with the Yankees' 17-13 win Saturday, the teams scored 50 runs on the weekend, four more than their previous scoring mark in consecutive games against each other.

Adam Ottavino (3-2), the second of six New York relievers, got the win.

Before a sellout crowd of 59,059 at Olympic Stadium, Xander Bogaerts, J.D. Martinez and Christian Vázquez became the first trio of Boston batters in four decades to hit home runs in the first inning.

Rays 6, Rangers 2

In St. Petersburg, Blake Snell struck out 12 over six innings for just his second win in 10 starts and Tampa Bay beat Texas.

Snell (5-7) gave up three hits during an 80-pitch outing. The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner had an 11.94 ERA in five previous starts this month.

Tommy Pham homered for the Rays, who won consecutive games for the first time since June 9-10. The first AL wild card leaders went 13-16 in June.

Astros 6, Mariners 1

In Houston, rookie Yordan Alvarez drove in three to back up seven strong innings by Gerrit Cole and help Houston over Seattle to complete a three-game sweep.

Cole (8-5), who allowed just four singles after a solo homer to J.P. Crawford, struck out 10 and walked one to win his fourth straight decision. Cole leads the American League with 151 strikeouts this season.

White Sox 4, Twins 3

In Chicago, first-time All-Star Lucas Giolito (11-2) allowed one hit in five innings to earn his major league-leading 11th victory and the White Sox beat Minnesota.

Yoán Moncada homered,



and he and José Abreu had three hits apiece for the White Sox, who won two of three against the AL Central-leading Twins.

Nelson Cruz homered for the Twins, who had won eight of nine against Chicago.

Dodgers 10, Rockies 5

In Denver, Joc Pederson had three hits and three RBIs, Matt Beaty doubled twice and drove in two, and Los Angeles rallied past Colorado to split their four-game series.

Kenta Maeda pitched into the fifth but didn't figure in the decision. He had a hand in the Dodgers' first two runs, though, singling and scoring in the third and laying down a sacrifice bunt that helped bring Kiké Hernandez home in the fifth.

Nationals 2, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Max Scherzer struck out 14 against his former team and Anthony Rendon homered for the second straight game as Washington topped Detroit.

Scherzer (8-5) returned to Comerica Park for the first time since leaving as a free agent after the 2014 season and stuck out double-digit batters for the fourth straight outing.

Brewers 2, Pirates 1

In Milwaukee, Eric Thames homered leading off the eighth inning, and Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh.

Thames, who entered as a pinch-hitter in the sixth, blasted an 0-1 pitch from Pirates reliever Kyle Crick (3-4) to straightaway center, a 432-

foot shot that hit just below the scoreboard.

Reds 8, Cubs 6

In Cincinnati, Eugenio Suárez ended his slump with Cincinnati's longest homer of the season, Anthony DeSclafani (5-4) pitched six scoreless innings and the Reds held off Chicago.

Phillip Ervin and Nick Senzel drove in two runs each, and Raisel Iglesias escaped with a six-out save despite allowing Jason Heyward's three-run homer in the ninth.

Indians 2, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, Shane Bieber allowed three hits and struck out 11 over eight dazzling innings, Carlos Santana drove in two and Cleveland edged Baltimore to avert a three-

game sweep.

Coming off successive 13-0 losses to the team with the worst record in the majors, the Indians turned it around behind Bieber (7-3). The left-hander did not issue a walk, retired 12 straight at one point and permitted only one runner past first base.

Athletics 12, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Matt Chapman hit a three-run homer, a triple and a three-run double on the day he was named to his first All-Star team, and Oakland beat Los Angeles to take three of four from its AL West rival.

Chapman racked up a career-high six RBIs starting with his 21st homer in the fifth inning, shortly before he learned of his selection to the midseason

showcase in Cleveland.

Cardinals 5, Padres 3, 11 innings

In San Diego, Matt Wieters hit a two-run homer with two outs in the 11th inning, and St. Louis overcame a three-run deficit to beat the Padres and snap a five-game losing streak.

Wieters' shot off Brad Wieck (0-1) reached the balcony on the fourth level of the Western Metal Supply Co. Building in the left-field corner. It was his fourth and came with Kolten Wong aboard on an infield single.

Phillies 13, Marlins 6

In Miami, Bryce Harper homered and drove in four to help Philadelphia end a streak of five consecutive losses to last-place Marlins.

Astros lead way with 6 All-Stars; Dodgers among clubs with 4

NEW YORK (AP)—Last time the Houston Astros went to Cleveland, they made a boozy, bubbly mess in the visiting locker room.

Now they're invading the home clubhouse, too.

Justin Verlander, Gerrit Cole and four of their Astros teammates will lead the American League squad at the All-Star Game in Cleveland on July 9. Major League

Baseball unveiled full rosters for the midsummer showcase Sunday, and Houston topped all big league clubs with six players. No other AL club has more than three.

Alex Bregman, George Springer and Michael Brant-

ley will be in the starting lineup, and Verlander, Cole and Ryan Pressly are on the pitching staff. It will be the first trip to Cleveland for those Astros since Game 3 of last year's AL Division Series, when Houston won 11-3 to complete a sweep.

The Dodgers, Brewers and Rockies lead the NL with four players each. The Los Angeles contingent includes Cody Bellinger, Clayton Kershaw, Hyun-Jin Ryu and Walker Buehler—plenty of familiar faces for manager Dave Roberts.

Milwaukee will be repre-

sented by Christian Yelich, Mike Moustakas, Yasmani Grandal and Josh Hader. It's the second appearance for Hader, who came under fire when racist and homopho-

bic tweets resurfaced on his account during last year's game. Hader apologized for the tweets, which he sent as a teenager.

Braves teammates Ronald Acuña Jr. and Mike Soroka are set to be this year's youngest players at 21. Atlanta said it's the first time two players under 22 from the same team made the All-Star team.

The NL team includes just three hitters in their 30s:

AP
Boston Red Sox's Mookie Betts, left, is forced out at second by New York Yankees second baseman Gleyber Torres after Xander Bogaerts hit into a double play during the fifth inning of a baseball game in London, Sunday, June 30, 2019.

Harper hit run-scoring singles in the first and sixth innings and a two-run homer in the eighth, his 15th. That gave him 199 career homers and 999 hits, and increased his average to .250.

Royals 7, Blue Jays 6

In Toronto, Jorge Soler homered and had two RBIs, Brad Keller (4-9) pitched five innings to win for the first time since May 22, and Kansas City beat the Blue Jays.

Justin Smoak homered twice for the Blue Jays but ended the game by fouling out against right-hander Ian Kennedy in the ninth, stranding the tying run at second base.

Giants 10, Diamondbacks 4

In San Francisco, Kevin Pillar had four hits including a homer and drove in five runs, Madison Bumgarner pitched seven strong innings, and the Giants beat Arizona.

Buster Posey had three hits including a double for the Giants, who split the four-game series with their NL West rivals.

Mets 8, Braves 5

In New York, newly named All-Stars Jeff McNeil and Pete Alonso had the big hits in a five-run eighth inning that rallied the Mets past Atlanta and snapped a seven-game losing streak.

Todd Frazier launched a long homer to begin the comeback and finished with three hits and two RBIs. McNeil and J.D. Davis also had three hits apiece for the Mets, who prevented a three-game sweep by the NL East leaders and won for only the fifth time in 18 games.


Moustakas and Grandal are 30, and Charlie Blackmon will turn 33 on Monday. Depending on who serves as DH, the NL could have the youngest starting lineup in All-Star Game history.

"I think it's just the beginning here," said Braves manager Brian Snitker, himself a freshman All-Star on Roberts' staff. "As I've said, I think this is going to be a yearly occurrence because these kids are going to be around for a long time."

The Yankees have the AL's best record but boast just three All-Stars: Gary Sánchez, DJ LeMahieu and Aroldis Chapman.

'Quite a difference' for Djokovic from year ago

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—A year ago, Novak Djokovic arrived at Wimbledon in a rut.

Still working his way back from elbow surgery, still fine-tuning a new service motion, he was more than 24 months removed from his most recent Grand Slam title. His ranking had tumbled out of the top 20 for the first time in over a decade.

One fortnight later, Djokovic was all the way back to his best. When he enjoys the defending male singles champion's honor of being the first to play at Centre Court on Monday, facing unseeded Philipp Kohlschreiber, Djokovic will be ranked No. 1 and beginning his bid for a fifth title at the All England Club.

He'll also be seeking a 16th major championship overall, and fourth in the past five Slam tournaments.

"Quite a difference," Djokovic said. "Coming off from the surgery, being unable to have a consistency with the results, this was a huge springboard for me, the win at Wimbledon last year. That's what kind of gave me that push—and also a huge relief."



Novak Djokovic of Serbia stretches for the ball during a training session at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Thursday, June 27, 2019. The Wimbledon Tennis Championships 2019 will be held in London from 1 July to 14 July.

the past 15-plus years; Federer is 37, Nadal 33. They have won 53 of the last 64 Grand Slam titles, including 10 in a row.

They also have won Wimbledon in 14 of the past 16 years; Andy Murray was the champion the other two times in that span.

"Funny enough, you always think somebody takes away something from the other. Probably we have. At the same time, we also pushed each other to greater heights," Federer said. "We definitely became better because of one another."

He is seeded No. 2, and Nadal is No. 3, and they could meet in the semifinals. They're on the opposite side of the draw from Djokovic, so they play their first-rounders Tuesday.

Others in Day 1 action include Venus Williams, at 39

the oldest woman in the draw, against Coco Gauff, at 15 the youngest; two-time major champion Naomi Osaka against Yulia Putintseva; Anderson against Pierre-Hugues Herbert; and 18-year-old Felix Auger-Aliassime, who is seeded 21st, against 2014 Wimbledon doubles champion Vasek Pospisil in an all-Canadian matchup.

While Federer has won a men's-record eight Wimbledon titles and owns the best grass-court winning percentage in the Open era at .874, Djokovic is building an impressive resume at the place.

The Serb has been to at least the semifinals eight of the past 12 years, and five of the last eight finals.

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ture against Topnotch), while Kanoa and Matansa-1 settled for a draw, 6-6.

Ivan Claire Gozon saved her best for last, firing five goals for Matansa-1, including the equalizer in the second half. Earlier in the first half, Gozon's hat trick kept Matansa-1 in the game, as Kanoa only led by one at the break, 4-3. Merlie Tolentino scored the first goal for Kanoa, while Melanie Santos logged the second, and Amelia Quintos nailed back-to-back to put their team on top.

Two straight goals from Santos in the second half boosted Kanoa's chances to end the season with a victory. However, Matansa-1 denied Kanoa's bid, as Sombat Shankweiler's goal in the 44th minute cut the deficit two one before Gozon's fifth goal forced the standoff.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Matansa Football Club-2's Tawny Barcinas dribbles during their earlier game against MP United in the 2019 Dove Spring Women's Futsal League at the TSL Sports Complex.

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the visiting squad was hoping to get even with the Japanese players after losing in their first meeting.

According to team manager Raymond Zapanta, the CNMI team played against St. Catherine for nearly two hours un-

der a light rain last week.

"Both teams appeared to be getting a feel for each other, so there was a decent amount of pressure on both sides. There were a few players that cramped, but no serious injuries," said Zapanta, adding that the CNMI bets earlier trained at the artificial turf of the Matsuyama-shi Hojo Sports Center

before dueling St. Catherine.

The national players also managed to work out at the indoor facility at Hojo Sports Center to avoid the heavy rain anticipated last Thursday morning. Then in the afternoon, despite the threat from the weather, Matsuyama High School graciously agreed to play against the CNMI players.

"The weather was truly in our favor, and the match went on with just a drizzle of rain. This time, only the U19 players played, and U23 players did recovery training. Sunjoon (Tenorio) scored in the second half after John Michael Rojas intercepted a pass at midfield and delivered the ball to Sunjoon for the finish," Zapanta said.



CNMI national players and Matsuyama High School team members pose for a photo after a training match in Japan last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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field strong teams," said the former Pacific Oceania Davis Cup player and captain.

As for the women's division, Papua New Guinea (banned by pro Abigail Tere-Apisah) is the favored squad, but the CNMI can't be taken lightly with Carol Lee and NCAA standout Isabel Heras leading the crew. Malika Miy-

awaki and Tania Tan complete the women's squad, which has Micro Games veteran Lydia Tan as assistant coach.

Lee played in the Australian Open Juniors at the start of the year and has been touring the world to compete in ITF Juniors events. She completed a series of competitions in Italy and Belgium last month and just recently clinched the singles and doubles titles in the South Pacific Open Junior

Championships 2019.

Heras, on the other hand, is coming off an outstanding rookie season in the NCAA Division II with the Dixie State University. She won the All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year honors and also helped the Trailblazers bag the conference championship.

"Playing college tennis for Dixie State really helped me improve my confidence and

game and I will definitely carry that momentum in Samoa. It's really a great honor to be able to represent the CNMI again," said Heras, who donned the Commonwealth's colors in the ITF Juniors and in the yearly Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

The tennis tournament in the Pacific Games in Samoa will be held from July 8 to 19 and will feature the men's and women's team events

and the men's and women's singles, doubles, and mixed doubles.

Incidentally, the last time the CNMI had a representative in the tennis event was during the 2007 Pacific Games in Samoa with only Tim Quan competing, as Todd Montgomery got injured.

"We've never sent a lot of players in the past. Now, we are here, we are just building up for this strong one," Race said.

USMNT beats Curacao, faces Jamaica in semis

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Christian Pulisic and the United States are headed to the CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinals after an underwhelming performance against Curacao.

The U.S. was outplayed during the second half by the world's 79th-ranked national team but managed to advance with a 1-0 win Sunday night behind Weston McKennie's goal in the 25th minute.

The defending champion U.S. extended its Gold Cup winning streak to nine and will play Jamaica on Wednesday at Nashville, Tennessee, in the second semifinal, a night after Mexico faces Haiti at Glendale, Arizona. The U.S. reached the semifinals for the 10th straight Gold Cup and 14th in 15 overall.

"When you get to the knockout stages, everyone wants to move on to the next round and they're giving absolutely everything," Pulisic said. "Curacao 100 percent wanted that—you could see that in the way they played."

Pulisic, the Americans' star midfielder, captained the U.S. for the second time and fed fellow 20-year-old McKennie for the goal. Pulisic cut in from a flank and crossed, and McKennie headed in the ball from 4 yards for his second goal in 12 international



United States' Tyler Boyd (21) passes the ball as Curacao's Darryl Lachman (4) looks on during the first half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer match, Sunday, June 30, 2019, in Philadelphia. AP

appearances.

"That's one of my strengths, running into the box late," McKennie said. "I always tell him to look for me. He knows to look for me. That's a little something we work on together."

Playing near his hometown of Hershey, Pulisic shot just wide in the second minute and was denied in the fourth when

goalkeeper Eloy Room, while falling to his left, reached to his right to tip his shot over the crossbar.

"I wanted to lead the team from the start," Pulisic said. "In the end, we needed to finish more chances to make it much easier on ourselves."

Curacao had 60 percent possession in the second half and

outshot the U.S. 15-10 overall. American goalkeeper Zack Steffen, a native of suburban Philadelphia, made a leaping save on Leandro Bacuna in the 84th minute.

The 30th-ranked Americans have outscored opponents 12-0 in the tournament, the championship of North and Central America and the

Caribbean, and have held opponents scoreless for 405 minutes overall.

Gregg Berhalter, hired as U.S. coach in December, said it was a tactical decision to fall back and not press in the second half, which allowed Curacao to control possession.

"When you look at these quarterfinal matches, they're all tight matches," Berhalter



Morgan adjusts her game at Women's World Cup

LYON, France (AP)—After collecting five goals in her first game, Alex Morgan is getting a lot of attention at the Women's World Cup—from defenders.

The U.S. forward has been shut down scoring-wise ever since her splash in the opener, as opponents have honed in on her, often with physical play. But that's just allowed her to emphasize other aspects of her game.



Morgan said each match in France has "presented itself in a different way."

"Naturally as a No. 9 I'm going to be plowed through quite often. I understand that comes along with the job and it happens many times, in the NWSL and even in friendlies," she said, referring to the U.S. domestic league. "So I wouldn't say it's necessarily more physical in general at this World Cup, I would just say it just comes with the territory."

Morgan and the top-ranked United States play No. 3 England on Tuesday in the semifinals. Sweden will play the Netherlands the next day to set up next Sunday's title match.

Morgan's five goals in a 13-0 victory over Thailand to open the tournament matched the record for most goals in a single game at the World Cup.

She rested the team's next match against Chile.

While she hasn't scored since, she's been vitally important to the United States. She helped set up both of Megan Rapinoe's goals in the team's 2-1 quarterfinal victory over France—drawing the foul for the free kick on the first, and setting up Tobin Heath's sprint up field and cross that Rapinoe buried for the second.

Afterward, U.S. coach Jill Ellis said

Morgan put her "heart and soul" into the game.

"The kudos to Alex is I think she has a balance to her game, in terms of penetration, and being able, like she did in the France game, to be more of a player that can hold the ball up for us," Ellis said. "And that's tough."

Both Sweden and Spain, the two opponents the Americans faced before France, targeted Morgan relentlessly. She was kicked in the first half of the 2-0 victory over Sweden to close the group stage then menaced by Spain to open the round of 16.

Rapinoe stepped up and scored two goals against both Spain and France.

"Right now, Megan Rapinoe has put the team on her back, from Spain to France, and it's

going to take players like that, and a couple individuals each game, to step up and really help carry this team," Morgan said.

Morgan was named U.S. Soccer's player of the year

last year after leading the team with 18 goals in 19 games. It was the second time she earned the honor: She also won in 2012, when she had 28 goals and helped the team win an Olympic title.

She had seven of those

England look to usurp USWNT

England are aiming to make history as they prepare to take on the United States with a first ever women's World Cup final squarely in their sights, as a landmark tournament moves towards a nail-biting climax.

The World Cup in France has generated record TV audiences for the women's game and Phil Neville's side come into Tuesday's clash against the reigning champions in Lyon with more people than ever expected to tune in to see the Lionesses push to go one better than in the previous two editions, when they lost out in the semis.

"You get to these moments in life and you think grasp it with both hands, both feet and all your body and that's what we've been saying to the players: don't get to a semi-final and have any regrets," Neville told reporters on Sunday.

"I want to see smiles and I want to see freedom, and I want to see us play the way that we can."

England face an American side brimming with talent and on a high from two hard-fought 2-1 wins over Spain in the last 16 and against hosts France in the quarter-finals, both gained thanks to the attacking exploits of Megan Rapinoe.

The 33-year-old is one of the stories of this tournament, with her match-winning displays paired with intense media scrutiny after a spat with President Donald Trump over her stated refusal to visit the White House while he remains in charge.

Rapinoe hit two penalties to squeeze her side past the Spanish in an underwhelming team display and then won a thrilling clash at the Parc des Princes with another brace to win what was probably the match of the tournament so far.

"Megan is someone I've from day one that I really admire. I remember in my first She Believes (Cup) when a ball bounced on the touchline and I went to catch the ball and her

goals during the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying tournament last fall to earn the Golden Boot.

She's in the running for the Golden Boot in France, too. With five goals, she's atop the leaderboard along with Rapi-

noe, England's Ellen White and Australia's Sam Kerr.

"I would love someone on our team to win the Golden Boot. Of course it would be a great accolade, but that's not my goal. My goal is to help this team win a World Cup," Morgan said.

ment to put on my first ever team uniform," Ellis said.

"I think my whole British culture growing up is still with me for sure and I'm grateful for that because I don't think that had I grown up in another country that the passion for football would be where it is."

Ellis has expressed happiness that the game is being taken seriously in Europe, but Alex Morgan, her team captain and the joint leading scorer in France with five goals, thinks the barriers can be pushed further back.

"To continue to fight for yourself and fight for the next generation is important," Morgan said.

"I find that a lot of times when I stand up for this team or with equality within the sport you're not necessarily going to reap all the benefits but your hope is that the next generation will."

The Netherlands face Sweden in the other semifinals in Lyon on Wednesday. The final takes place in the same stadium on Sunday.



Durant leaves
Warriors, joins
Irving in Nets

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USMNT beats
Curacao, faces
Jamaica in semis

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI TENNIS TEAM

Strong contender in Pacific Games



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, CNMI National Tennis Team head coach Jeff Race, assistant coach Lydia Tan, and players Tania Tan, Isabel Heras, Malika Miyawaki, and Ken Song pose for a group photo after a send-off ceremony for Team CNMI last Friday at Kanoa Resort.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Head coach Jeff Race believes that the CNMI National Tennis Team is a strong contender in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

"This is by far the best tennis team that the CNMI has ever fielded in (in Pacific Games or Pacific Mini Games). We have the highest ranked player in the Pacific history, a junior player that's ranked No. 114 in the world and a lot of very competitive players," said Race last Friday during the send-off ceremony for Team CNMI at Kanoa Resort.

The veteran coach is talking about Colin Sinclair, who is at No. 48 in the International Tennis Federation World rankings (No. 47 highest ranked achieved



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI National Tennis Team head coach Jeff Race provides insights to athletes and officials about the doping testing in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

last month) and No. 485 in the Association of Tennis Professionals. The 24-year-old will be teaming up with Micronesian Games medalists Bobby Cruz, former CNMI junior player Colin Ramsey, and ITF Juniors participants Ken Song and Robbie Schorr in the men's division.

"Colin is the favorite in the men's singles. This team has a strong chance to win medals in Samoa, it's just a matter of how many and what color," said Race, who himself has represented the CNMI in regional competitions.

Sinclair is currently in the Netherlands, playing in the \$15,000 ITF World Tennis

Tour Alkmaar. Last month, the former junior player saw action in pro circuit tournaments in Germany, Spain, and Czech Republic. He will meet his teammates in Samoa this Sunday morning in time for the opening ceremonies in the evening.

Though Race likes the CNMI's medal chances in Samoa, he said the Commonwealth is not the team to team in the quadrennial meet.

"I would say we are in the mix. I don't know the players coming for the other teams, but Samoa, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, and Tahiti usually

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National players wrap up training camp

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI national team's U19 and U23 players will have their last day of training camp in Matsuyama, Japan today.

The group, headed by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director and coach Michiteru Mita, will only have its measurements and drills in the morning at the Matsuyama Hojo Sports Center, as it is scheduled to leave for the airport early afternoon for its return flight to Saipan tonight.

Today's activities will cap the Commonwealth players' eight-day training camp, which aimed at preparing them for the 2019 Marianas Cup (July 20) in Guam and the AFC U19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers (November)

in Cambodia.

For their penultimate training match, the CNMI players



were slated to challenge anew St. Catherine University, a collegiate team in Matsuyama, last night.

Results of the game were unavailable at press time, but

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI national players perform drills during a training camp in Matsuyama, Japan last week.

Matansa-2 eases past MPU

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Football Club-2 capped its campaign in the 2019 Dove Spring Women's Futsal League on a high note after dominating MP United, 6-1, last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Chautima Borja, Tawny Barcenas, and Chirapan McQuire delivered in Matansa-2's last game with the former anchoring the team's offense after scoring three goals. Barcenas added a pair, while McQuire chipped in one.

Barcenas started things off for Matansa-2 with her shot in the 11th minute, while

Borja wrapped up the first half with back-to-back goals to give their squad a promising 3-0 halftime advantage.



Borja made it three in a row with her conversion in the 39th minute, while MP United finally lit up the board

in the 42nd minute, thanks to Aimee Quito-Weiss' goal.

Three minutes after MP United broke its silence, Barcenas got her second goal, while McQuire closed out for Matansa-2 in the 49th of the 50-minute match.

Meanwhile, TanHoldings also won its last game of the season (via forfeit).

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